

Commonwealth underlines joint action

LIMASSOL (AP) — Parliamentarians from Commonwealth member states Tuesday urged joint action to confront major international problems like human rights violations, environmental hazards and poverty. The call was made by several speakers at the inaugural session of the annual conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, grouping Britain and its former colonies and dependencies. "I propose that we work together to develop our own Commonwealth sustainable development agenda." Cyprus President Clasies Clerides told participants from 50 Commonwealth nations. "We could develop this agenda in the best tradition of Commonwealth solidarity, cooperating in good faith, and considering that peace, respect for human rights, development and environmental protection are interdependent and indivisible." Mr. Clerides said. Several speakers from developing African and Asian states said the association should strive to eliminate what they called "double-standards" frequently adopted by the United Nations in dealing with international problems and the implementation of Security Council resolutions.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جورنال تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالإنجليزية عن لجنة الصحافة الأردنية (الرأي)

UNIVERSITY OF JORDAN
SERIALS
DIVISION

Volume 17 Number 5404

AMMAN WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1993, RABIE' AL AWAL 21, 1414

Price: 150 Fils

Hariri in S. Arabia to secure aid

JEDDAH (AP) — Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri arrived Tuesday in Saudi Arabia, the most important stop on a Gulf tour aimed at securing donations for rebuilding southern Lebanon after an Israeli offensive in July. Mr. Hariri, accompanied by Arab League Secretary-General Emad Abdul Meguid, flew in from Kuwait, which had pledged to contribute to a \$500 million fund for Lebanon established after the week-long Israeli naval, aerial and ground attacks (see page 2). Saudi Arabia said it would donate \$200 million. In Kuwait, Finance Minister Nasser Al Rowdhan said in reply to a question from the Associated Press that his country has decided to pay \$75 million to Lebanon for the purpose.

Russia pledges to help Azerbaijan

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russia pledged Tuesday to help war-torn Azerbaijan stabilise its economy and political situation, as the country's acting leader Geydar Aliyev announced the republic was set to join the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said Azerbaijan was to announce its decision to join the CIS officially on Sept. 24, in an about-turn on the policies of the country's ousted President Abulfaz Elchibey. Mr. Chernomyrdin told after a meeting with Mr. Aliyev that it was "urgent" to end the five-year conflict in Azerbaijan (see page 8) which "seems to be spreading," the agency Itar-Tass said.

Sudan denies flogging bishop

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan denied Tuesday that an Anglican bishop had been flogged in Khartoum after a court found him guilty of adultery. Bishop Gabriel Roric, minister of state at the Foreign Ministry, told journalists the reports that Bishop Peter Birish of Khartoum had been caned were untrue. Mr. Roric called the report a lie aimed at spoiling Sudan's good name. British newspapers and media reported that Bishop Birish was given 80 lashes some weeks ago after a senior court convicted him in July under Islamic law, overturning an earlier acquittal. Archbishop of Canterbury George Carey, leader of the world's Anglicans, condemned the reported flogging on Sunday, saying that if Bishop Birish was innocent, "this is particularly barbaric and inhuman treatment."

Canada to have October elections

OTTAWA (R) — Canadian Prime Minister Kim Campbell will call a national election for Oct. 25, the Canadian Press agency reported on Tuesday. Citing unnamed sources, Canadian Press said Ms. Campbell would call the election on Wednesday. Ms. Campbell, a 46-year-old lawyer from Vancouver, took over the leadership of the ruling Conservative Party two months ago in a bid to revive its electoral chances after nine years in office under Brian Mulroney.

Amnesty urges Iraq to free detainees

LONDON (AFP) — Amnesty International Wednesday called on Iraq to release Kuwaiti and Third World nationals still unaccounted for since the end of the Gulf war and believed secretly detained in Iraq. The London-based human rights group asked Baghdad for "clarification" of the fate of the detainees, saying they had been denied all contact with the outside world" and that some of them may have been tortured or executed.

Sudan rebels claim downing helicopter

NAIROBI (AP) — Sudanese rebels Tuesday claimed they shot down a military helicopter the government earlier said had crashed, killing eight members of a high-level delegation. The claim was made in a statement distributed to news agencies in Nairobi by the faction of the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) loyal to John Garang. On Monday, the Sudan News Agency said a technical failure caused the crash.

Bilaterals resume, but delegates await Israel-PLO accord

Combined agency dispatches

WASHINGTON — Arab and Israeli peace negotiators here were anxiously awaiting Tuesday for the Israeli-Palestinian accord to be signed at the White House next week in the hopes it will help spur their own agenda ahead.

The Jordanian, Lebanese and Syrian delegations are waiting for the Israeli-Palestinian accord to be clinched to advance their talks with Israel, a Jordanian official here said.

White House spokeswoman Dee Dee Myers said the signing of the pact "is not a done deal" but that the U.S. administration hopes that if some of the details can be worked out soon it will be signed on Monday.

An Israeli minister said the pact with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) could be signed on Sept. 13 before the Jewish new year. The 11th round of bilateral peace talks in Washington ends the following day.

But a State Department official, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said "no firm date has been offered" for the signing of the pact.

The agreement provides for limited Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho and calls for

mutual PLO-Israeli recognition after decades of bitter enmity.

The signing must be preceded by mutual recognition which is expected "within 24 hours," according to an Arab diplomatic source in Tunis.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, who won the support of the neutrality of Arab parties in the peace talks on the pact secretly negotiated with Israel, said talks are continuing to dissolve remaining barriers to mutual recognition.

A source close to the Israeli delegation in Washington said "one must strike while the iron is hot" to ensure that there is no time for it to be undermined by the vociferous opposition to it.

Ms. Myers said President Bill Clinton had offered to host a Sept. 13 signing ceremony at the White House.

"If they get the details worked out, we've offered that date," she said.

Israeli and Palestinian delegates said they, too, were hopeful of a signing next week. Pending the outcome of the Israel-PLO talks in the Mideast, the negotiators Tuesday discussed the Palestinian self-government agreement in general terms and said they did not talk about how to implement it.

But Israel and Syria got down to talking about swapping land

(Continued on page 10)

PLO executives to decide on self-rule

Combined agency dispatches

TUNIS — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) executive committee is set to hold a crucial meeting in the Tunisian capital to decide whether to endorse the Palestinian autonomy accord thrashed out in secret with Israel.

The meeting of the decision-making body Wednesday or Thursday is likely to coincide with a landmark deal on mutual recognition between Israel and the PLO.

Recognition by Israel would give PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat a boost in the debate.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said Tuesday after talks with Mr. Arafat that recognition could come by Thursday, and an Arab diplomat in Tunis said it could be clinched ahead of the PLO meeting.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, meanwhile, said the "gap is no longer very wide" between the PLO and Israel.

"We are trying to iron out the last differences" before mutual recognition, he said.

The deal for autonomy starting in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho was struck by PLO and Israeli officials in October.

Mr. Arafat's task in clinching the 18-member committee's approval has already been made easier by the resignation of two

members opposed to the deal.

Another two members, from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, said they would boycott the meeting.

With a fifth member, Elias Khouli, seriously ill in Amman, the meeting could be reduced to an attendance of 13. But Palestinian officials said Bishop Khouli first could yield to pressure to attend.

Most of those likely to take part in the meeting are considered close to Mr. Arafat, analysts said.

A heated debate is forecast, particularly if committee members accuse Mr. Arafat of striking a deal with Israel to renounce violence in exchange for recognition.

Such a deal would spell the end of the six-year-old Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories.

Mr. Arafat has already won support for the autonomy accord from his Fatah faction, the largest group in the PLO, after stormy talks which ended Saturday. But he failed to muster unanimous backing.

Farouk Kaddoumi, a top Fatah official and Executive Committee member, said three out of 12 Fatah leaders rejected the accord. The others backed it on condition the deal be submitted to the 100-member Palestine Central Council.

The Executive Committee last

met between Aug. 26 and 28, when after a stormy debate it gave Palestinian delegates to the Middle East peace talks in Washington the green light to negotiate the "Gaza-Jericho first" option.

That was before Israel and PLO leaders revealed they had already agreed on the outline accord.

It has since won approval from Jordan and the Gulf Arabs, as well as Egypt. Syria has said it would not oppose the deal, while Lebanon criticised the Palestinians for not consulting their Arab partners in Middle East peace talks.

Mahmoud Abbas, one of the main players behind the autonomy deal, was in Tunis Tuesday. The other Executive Committee members were expected to arrive at the PLO headquarters on Wednesday or Thursday.

In Cairo on Tuesday, Mr. Arafat was also elusive on when the self-rule accord could be signed.

"No final official date has been set," he said at a press conference. "There are only suggestions." He was responding to a question on whether a signing ceremony was set for next Monday, as had been reported.

But David Sultan, Israel's ambassador to Egypt, said the accord would be signed on Monday regardless of whether the recognition exchange had occurred.

(Continued on page 10)

Thousands flee Bosnia battles; atrocities reported

Combined agency dispatches

SARAJEVO — Thousands of civilians are fleeing their homes throughout central Bosnia, on the run from battles between Croat forces and Bosnian government troops, U.N. officials said Tuesday.

While the battlefield situation was relatively calm, the effects of the recent fighting were evident: Up to 10,000 Muslim refugees crowded the town of Jablanica, while up to 2,800 Croats fled to Livno.

Word of the latest refugee exodus came a day after U.N. officials reported claims of torture and brutality made by Muslim detainees freed last month from two Bosnian Croat detention camps.

A U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) field worker saw about 100 of the estimated 400 released inmates. She reported chilling tales of torture and torture, beatings and

random shootings, bestial living conditions and inmates drinking their own urine to survive.

UNHCR spokesman Ray Wilkinson, who relayed the reports on Monday, said the agency's field representative had urged that "the strongest pressure be placed on Bosnian Croat authorities" regarding the breaches of international law.

Croatian President Franjo Tuđman sent a letter Monday to Mate Boban, the Bosnian Croat leader he has supported, urging him to "respect human dignity in all your actions, to respect basic human rights and values, and to most strictly apply international law and humanitarian law."

UNHCR officials were told by former detainees that up to 2,500 men, including teenagers, remained in one Croat camp at Dretelj, south of Mostar. The prisoners are kept in five hangars and two ammunition storage tunnels in barbaric conditions, the freed Muslims said.

"Until the security situation is clarified and improved we will not move it," Mr. Wilkinson said.

Mr. Wilkinson said in the past week between 1,800 and 2,800 Croats had fled fighting around the Croat-held town of Vares, north of Sarajevo, and crossed

Bosnian Serb lines to safety. They were taken by bus and truck to Livno in Croat-held western Bosnia, and two elderly women died during the grueling, 48-hour journey, he said.

In addition, Mr. Wilkinson said his agency was receiving reports from central Bosnia of "hundreds, possibly thousands" of Croats and Muslims moving across the patchwork of frontlines around the central town of Fojnič, heading to areas held by their ethnic brethren.

In an interview for Bosnian radio on Monday night, Mr. Izzetbegović, a Slavic Muslim, prepared to address the U.N. Security Council in New York on Tuesday to discuss the stalled peace efforts.

"They claim that they do not want to interfere in the conflict. I will tell them that they have interfered in the conflict in a negative way," Mr. Izzetbegović said.

"They interfered because ... they tied the hands of the person under attack, and then walked away," he said, referring to the arms embargo on ex-Yugoslavia. That move froze a military imbalance that favoured Bosnian Serbs, who had the hardware of the Yugoslav army.

soon, in order to prevent "incredible suffering."

Bosnia's President Alija Izetbegović, a Slavic Muslim, prepared to address the U.N. Security Council in New York on Tuesday to discuss the stalled peace efforts.

The opposition Likud Party has charged the autonomy accord would lead to a Palestinian state and "threaten" the existence of Israel.

On Saturday, tens of thousands of supporters of the deal demonstrated in Tel Aviv. The rally was organised by Mr. Rabin's Labour Party, the left-wing Meretz, its ruling coalition ally, and the Peace Now movement.

Settlers' leaders called a strike and for schools to stay closed on Tuesday, but the education ministry warned that teachers who stayed away from work would be punished.

Palestinian shot dead
Israeli soldiers shot dead a 22-

U.S. team on Iraq sanctions due today

AMMAN (R) — A 12-member American team will arrive in Jordan Wednesday to study the effect on the Kingdom of U.N. trade sanctions against Iraq. Official said Jordan will ask the team, headed by senior State Department inspector David Newton, to persuade the U.N. to cancel or ease a naval inspection at Aqaba and make it easier for traders to send goods to Iraq. Shippers say extensive searches of cargo vessels have raised transport fees and insurance costs and diverted millions of dollars in business to Iran, Turkey and Syria. Mohammad Jamal, head of the Finance Ministry's customs department, said local traders had to wait for six to eight weeks for U.N. sanctions committee approval to send goods to Iraq while businesses in other countries received authorizations in a week. The U.N. committee is in charge of approving exports to Iraq under the sweeping ban imposed after Saddam's 1990 invasion of Kuwait. All but humanitarian goods are banned for export to what was Jordan's biggest market before the Gulf war.

Combined agency dispatches

MUSCAT — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat arrived Tuesday in Oman on his first visit to the Gulf since the 1991 war for talks on the Palestinian autonomy deal and his rift with the region's leaders.

Mr. Arafat was to brief Oman's ruler Sultan Qaboos Ben Said in Salalah, 1,000 kilometres south of Muscat, on the Israel-PLO deal for autonomy starting in the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho, officials said.

It was his first visit to the Gulf since he was ostracized by the region's oil-rich Arab monarchies for supporting Iraq after the invasion of Kuwait.

Sultan Qaboos was expected to inform Mr. Arafat of his support for the recent agreement between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on a plan for Palestinian autonomy in the occupied territories pending negotiations on the final status of the territories.

The King also expressed hope that the decision will help achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East, Petra said.

The King, who is on a private visit to London, held talks with British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd on Monday, shortly before Mr. Hurd left on a visit to the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia (see story below).

(Continued on page 10)

Arafat in Oman seeking to end rift

Combined agency dispatches

between feuding Arab parties, and might help ease Mr. Arafat's return to favour in the Gulf states.

But so far, there has been no sign that the Palestinian leader will visit any other Gulf nations.

Although far from the Arab-Israeli front line, the Gulf states have financed the economies of Israel's immediate foes and were once major contributors to the PLO. They cut off support during the Gulf crisis, plunging the organisation into crisis.

Oman, the only Gulf country to support the late Egyptian President Anwar Sadat when he launched his peace initiative with Israel in 1977, has praised the Palestinian-led deal.

It was his first visit to the Gulf since he was ostracized by the region's oil-rich Arab monarchies for supporting Iraq after the invasion of Kuwait.

Petra said that during the meeting, held at 10 Downing Street, King Hussein reaffirmed his support for the "independent Palestinian decision taken recently by the Palestinian leadership and voiced hope that the decision would contribute to meeting the aspirations of the Palestinian people and enabling them to restore their legitimate rights on their national soil."

The King was referring to the recent agreement between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on a plan for Palestinian autonomy in the occupied territories pending negotiations on the final status of the territories.

The veteran PLO leader met Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak earlier in Cairo in a bid to clinch mutual recognition by Israel and the PLO.

President Mubarak predicted that the PLO and Israel would recognise each other within two days.

The six-member Gulf Cooperation Council, led by Saudi Arabia, has given the proposed autonomy accord its blessing but stressed it must be "a first step towards reaching a just, lasting and comprehensive settlement."

But relations between the Gulf Arab countries and the PLO have been frosty ever since Mr. Arafat supported Iraq after its Aug. 2, 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Mutual recognition between Israel and the PLO was expected as early as last week, but has been

(Continued on page 10)

King, Major review Mideast peace process

Middle East News

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1998

Islamists seem to opt for rhetorics against autonomy

By Neil MacFarquhar
The Associated Press

JABALIYA CAMP, Occupied Gaza Strip — Wall slogans signed by Islamic activists scream for Jewish blood, and prayer leaders expose the gun as the only way to achieve a Palestinian state.

But Islamic activists in groups like Hamas and Islamic Jihad appear divided about whether bullets for just violent words will defeat the plan to start Palestinian autonomy in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank city of Jericho.

A minority argues that a guerrilla campaign against Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The others, while not ruling out guns entirely, think the limited scope of the plan combined with the corruption that has long plagued the PLO will sink PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's plans for Gaza.

They could then use their already formidable strength in the fetid alleys of the refugee camps to win at the ballot box.

"Seven years ago the Islamic groups had few supporters in Gaza. Now they have at least 50 per cent," said Dr. Saad Shawa, a 37-year-old veterinarian and Hamas supporter. "In the end the only realistic alternative is an Islamic

state."

A few scuffles and scattered gunshots are the only violence to date. But threats hover everywhere.

Banners say things like "to the sellers of Palestine: The bullet that shot at the heart of Sadat will be shot at your hearts." It refers to the 1981 assassination of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat after he signed a peace treaty with Israel.

Wall slogans, the Gaza equivalent of a town crier, scream: "We don't recognise Gaza and Jericho and we will continue slaughtering the Jews until the last drop of our blood."

It's in sermons, too.

"The solution will come through the gun," Dr. Jasim Muttawa, a pediatrician, told followers at Izzedine Al Qassam mosque.

In an interview, Dr. Muttawa said he would rally opponents by stressing the plan's flaws, not violence.

"We will resist fragmenting the Palestinian people," he said.

While Israel and the PLO have agreed on the plan's details, except recognition between Israel and the PLO is delaying its signing. Authorities are bracing for violence both from Islamic activists and from militant Jewish nationalists who think the plan betrays the

Biblical vision of "greater Israel."

Arab rejectionists attack the delay in discussing the status of Jerusalem.

Sheikh Muttawa said about 10 per cent of the Islamic leaders preach violence, with an unwritten consensus among 90 per cent that mosque rallies were enough to educate people against the plan.

"We are not talking about demonstrations," Sheikh Muttawa said. "Demonstrate against who?"

Instead, they make fun of the PLO.

"Now everything has changed, even the name of the PLO. Now it's the Gaza liberation organisation," said Mr. Shawa.

Islamic activists know they are battling three factors. First, Mr. Arafat retains hero status — a new brand of shampoo released this week in Gaza was even named after his wife, Soha.

Second, Israel's sealing of the territories last March means the unemployment rate among the 800,000 Gazans hovers around 70 per cent. There are high hopes that peace will bring development jobs.

Third, no one wants Israel soldiers around.

But more than an Israeli withdrawal, the agreement spells out that the Palestinians will stop attacks on Israel. That



A Palestinian expellee from Nablus packs his bags in anticipation of his return home. The International Red Cross informed the 390 exiles in southern Lebanon 189 of them would be able to return starting Thursday (AP photo).

goes against the basic strategy of Islamic groups.

"The Islamic opponents established a clear red line. They said, 'Go ahead and sign the agreement. We are not going to cut off your hands,'" said Adnan Salim, a former activist. "But in return you are not going to stop us from continuing our armed struggle."

The return of the 400 Palestinians exiled to the border with Lebanon since last December, expected to start this week, will boost Islamic activists' cause.

Islamic said they will get support from other movements in Algeria, Egypt and Iran.

"Everyone thinks Arafat is not entitled to negotiate over Palestine because this piece of land does not belong to him only, but to all Muslims," said Mr. Salim.

Fighters say they will shoot anyone who blocks them, including a Palestinian police force — Palestinians have already killed more than 750 fellow Arabs suspected of collaboration during the six-year uprising against Israel's occupation.

Mainstream PLO supporters say that won't happen.

"The Palestinians are very violent, but against occupation, not against a legal authority," said Tawfiq Mahbou, a PLO backer in Jabalia.

So far, derision is the main tool of Islamic parties.

In a recent prayer speech detailing 10 reasons why good Muslims should reject the plan, Sheikh Muttawa thundered, "God promised paradise for Mohammad and his followers. He did not promise them Gaza and Jericho."

Shukaki: Arafat could start civil war

Israel ponders a great taboo — a Palestinian state

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Now that the taboo on Israel recognising the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has been lifted, the idea of an independent Palestinian state is taking increasing shape here.

Officially the government is maintaining Israel's traditional resistance to such a state, and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin voices opposition daily.

But he has agreed to hear Palestinian demands during negotiations on a permanent settlement to the Palestinian question.

Those negotiations are set to start with the third year of Palestinian autonomy and some people have decided the time has already come to thrash out the details.

Labour Party General Secretary Nissim Zvili declared Monday that the historic autonomy

agreement with the PLOs which Israel hopes will be signed next week, "leads to the establishment of an Israeli-Palestinian confederation."

Only separate stat join a confederation.

"Such a confederation will enable both peoples to live in peace, side by side," Mr. Zvili told journalists.

Avraham Burg, the Labour Party chairman of the parliamentary education committee, backed the "Palestinians' right to self-determination (which leads) to the creation of independent states neighbouring Israel."

"I support such a state, provided it does not affect Israel's rights," he told a meeting on Sunday of Labour Party "doves."

Mr. Rabin's ruling Labour Party recognised the "national

rights" of the Palestinians for the first time in its 1991 manifesto, seven months before last year's elections were held.

Even Israel's ambassador in Washington, Itamar Rabinovich, admitted Sunday that the autonomy accord could lead to a Palestinian state, but that the question remained in suspense for the five years of autonomy until a permanent settlement is sorted out.

"We know full well that the Palestinians want a state," he said.

With the PLO and Israel expected shortly to sign a declaration of mutual recognition to end three decades of enmity, another taboo, the future of Jerusalem, is now also being increasingly aired in public.

Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin rode into the breach on

Sunday declaration that Arab East Jerusalem should be made an "autonomous quarter" as part of a permanent settlement.

"The town could thus remain united on the urban and administrative level with the Jewish population tied politically to Israel and the Arab population to the Palestinian entity which will be created," he said.

But no one has yet dared to raise the final taboo: The right of return for Palestinian refugees from the war of 1948 when the United Nations says 726,000 left their homes.

There is a general consensus among Israelis that the return of so many refugees — some two million are today registered with the United Nations — would threaten the existence of the Jewish state.

Scottish lawyer to meet Libya Lockerbie suspects

LONDON (Agencies) — Scottish lawyer Alistair Duff has said he would soon travel to Libya to meet with two Libyan nationals suspected of carrying out the 1988 Lockerbie bombing.

Mr. Duff, 39, told the British Press Association he had been contacted by Libyan lawyer Ibrahim Legwell and would go to Libya with Lord Macaulay of Bragar, also a Scottish lawyer, "within two or three weeks."

Mr. Legwell and Mr. Duff had met in Scotland on Aug. 4.

Mr. Duff also confirmed a report by the daily paper the Scotsman that he and Lord Macaulay had met with Libyan representatives in Libya in mid-August.

A Foreign Office spokesman said: "We have given the Libyans a series of detailed assurances about a fair trial in Scotland and the treatment of the two men after they have been surrendered."

He was responding to the Sunday Post which reported: "Every last detail of the plan to bring the men here has now been signed by the two governments."

During their talks in Abu Dhabi late Sunday, Sheikh Zayed said the two were responsible for planting the Pan Am bomb.

the men after meeting Mr. Legwell in Edinburgh's Balmoral hotel three weeks ago.

Mr. Legwell's visit was the result of inquiries by a London law firm advising the Libyans, Mr. Duff added.

Mr. Duff said he planned to go to the Libyan capital Tripoli to meet Abdul Baset Ali Mohmed Al Megrahi and Al Amin Khalifa Fhimah as soon as possible, probably within the next 14 days.

The British Foreign Office would not confirm a Sunday newspaper report that a secret deal had been signed with Libya to bring the two accused men to trial in Scotland.

A Foreign Office spokesman said: "We have given the Libyans a series of detailed assurances about a fair trial in Scotland and the treatment of the two men after they have been surrendered."

He was responding to the Sunday Post which reported: "Every last detail of the plan to bring the men here has now been signed by the two governments."

During their talks in Abu Dhabi late Sunday, Sheikh Zayed said the two were responsible for planting the Pan Am bomb.

Hariri close to securing reconstruction funds

ABUDHABI (AFP) — Lebanon is close to securing the \$500 million promised by Arab states to rebuild the country after ferocious Israeli bombardments in the last week of July, Lebanese officials said.

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has promised to give \$75 million towards the \$500 in aid promised by the Arab League to rebuild Lebanon, a Lebanese official said here.

Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri said he had held "fruitful" talks with UAE President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan.

The aid, promised at an Arab League meeting at the end of July, is also aimed at rebuilding the Lebanese army.

Mr. Hariri has so far secured around \$150 million from several Arab countries and was expected to obtain nearly \$300 million when he visits Kuwait and Saudi Arabia Tuesday and Wednesday.

But he maintained the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) had not consulted with Lebanon and other Arab states bordering Israel.

Mr. Hariri said Lebanon would only negotiate with Israel through the peace talks in Washington.

already promised around \$54 million.

Sources close to the Lebanese delegation said Mr. Hariri was expected to get around \$200 million from Saudi Arabia.

The prime minister has visited several Arab League states with the league's secretary general, Esmat Abdul Meguid, to secure the promised funds. He flew to Kuwait late Monday before visiting Saudi Arabia.

Addressing the Lebanese community in Abu Dhabi Monday, Mr. Hariri appeared to be less critical of the Israeli-Palestinian agreement to grant Palestinians limited autonomy in the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

"Arabs are divided between supporters and opponents of the agreement but there is no absolute opposition. We should not take any hasty opinion against any agreement and we hope that accord will positively affect Lebanon."

But he maintained the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) had not consulted with Lebanon and other Arab states bordering Israel.

Mr. Hariri said Lebanon would only negotiate with Israel through the peace talks in Washington.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 723111-19

PROGRAMME TWO
14:40 L'histoire Chevalier de Gruyere
15:00 News in French
15:15 Ushuaia
15:30 News in Hebrew
20:30 News in English
21:15 Night Court
22:00 Documentary: "Notre Siècle"
22:20 News in English
22:25 Astérix

Mr. Shukaki called the proposed PLO-Israel deal "a crime."

"It is against the Koran, against Islamic law, and mutual recognition between Israel and the PLO will lead to the Israeli domination of the whole region," he said.

But he distanced his group from assassination threats against things worse," he said.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN: Dr. Jamil Tarif 794710
Dr. Abbas Al Hakeem 858446
Dr. Fayez Al Dabbas 759155
Dr. Yousef Rashed 661901
First pharmacy 661912
Farmer pharmacy 778236
Al Asmaa pharmacy 670555
Neiroth pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660
Nairouj pharmacy 623672
Najib pharmacy 847632

ZARQA: Dr. Fayez Al Oasi 246743
Al Quds pharmacy 661757
Terraissance Church Tel: 622366

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swieifli, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624390
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 657440
De Salle Church Tel. 661757

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Weather will be fine with clouds appearing at low altitudes. Winds will be westerly moderate to active. In Aqaba winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.
Aqaba 15 / 27
Deserts 22 / 35
Jordan Valley 14 / 31

RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Int'l. Airport 08-53200

Electric Power Company 636381
Royal Jordanian (RJ) 08-53200
Riyadh (RJ) 08-53200

Dhahran (RJ) 08-53200

Abu Dhabi (RJ) 08-53200

Frankfurt (RJ) 08-53200

Istanbul (RJ) 08-53200

New York, Amsterdam (RJ) 08-53200

Brussels, Paris (RJ) 08-53200

Madrid, Geneva (RJ) 08-53200

Montreal, Toronto (RJ) 08-53200

Rome (RJ) 08-53200

Paris (RJ) 08-53200

London (RJ) 08-53200

Dubai (RJ) 08-53200

Cairo (RJ) 08-53200

Beirut, Paris (AF) 08-53200

Rome (AF) 08-53200

Amman (AF) 08-53200

<p

Syria, Lebanon and Jordan agree to joint plan to promote tourism

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan, Lebanon and Syria have agreed to launch an executive programme aimed at marketing their tourist attractions abroad, according to Minister of Tourism Yaman Hikmat Tuesday.

Speaking upon his return from Latakia, Syria where he attended a regional tourism seminar, the minister said he and his counterparts agreed to implement a joint plan for promoting tourism through publications, leaflets and other media materials featuring tourist attractions in the three countries.

Mr. Hikmat said that the three countries had signed an agreement in 1974 to cooperate in promoting the tourism industry, and now they will begin an executive programme to implement this agreement.

The three countries have



agreed to coordinate their efforts at international conference, organise joint tourism exhibitions in Arab and foreign capitals to inform the public about their folklore, cultural heritage, local foods and other aspects of life, said the minister.

Marketing of tourist attractions in the three countries is to be done through the tourist and

travel agencies, transport firms and national tourist office, he added.

Furthermore, the three countries have agreed to exchange school curricula dealing with tourism industry personnel training, hotel management and information exchange in tourism related fields, added Mr. Hikmat.

According to the minister, the three countries also agreed to facilitate the entry of tourist groups from Lebanon, Syria and Jordan and to set up technical committees to conduct studies for improving and promoting further future cooperation in tourism.

Mr. Hikmat said that the seminar was held in the framework of the 1974 agreement.

He was accompanied to the Latakia seminar by representatives of the private and public sectors in Jordan.

Israel arrests four Iraqis who escaped police chase

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Four Iraqis, who were arrested by Israeli authorities near the demarcation line between Jordan and the Jewish state, had escaped a police chase in the Jordanian desert, according to security sources.

The sources said the four were riding one of two vans which were chased by police in the early hours of Friday. One of the vans was intercepted; the other was "lost" in the Wadi Araba region.

Three Iraqi nationals riding the intercepted vehicles, identified as a large GMC van, were detained. The van was found carrying arms, suggesting that the group was involved in weapon smuggling, according to the source.

The main item in the arms haul was 14-millimetre guns. Iraq is known to produce similar guns.

Reporting on the other four

who were detained by the Israelis, the Jerusalem Post quoted a military source as saying that an army patrol crossed into Jordanian territory near a Jewish settlement to arrest the four, "who waved a white flag to attract their attention."

The four were dressed in civilian clothes and carried Iraqi (identification) cards. No equipment was found in their possession, the Jerusalem Post reported.

The report did not mention any vehicle.

Other Israeli reports said the four were believed to be Iraqis whose residency papers in Jordan had expired and did not want to go back to their country in the absence of visas to travel to any other destination.

According to the Jordanian source, police had given chase to the two vehicles after they were observed behaving suspiciously. The source did not say when the arms found in the vehicle could have entered Jordan.

The flow of smuggled arms added to the weapons which were already in possession of Iraqis who feared a spillover of the Gulf war into the Kingdom.

Early this year, the government enforced strict regulations governing possession of arms and has been collecting all weapons except licensed personal arms from the public.

Kuwait.

Members of the Iraqi Popular Army reportedly selling their light arms to smugglers to raise money to cope with the hardships resulting from the international sanctions against Iraq. The sanctions were imposed after the August 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

The flow of smuggled arms added to the weapons which were already in possession of Iraqis who feared a spillover of the Gulf war into the Kingdom.

According to the Jordanian source, police had given chase to the two vehicles after they were observed behaving suspiciously. The source did not say when the arms found in the vehicle could have entered Jordan.

The flow of smuggled arms added to the weapons which were already in possession of Iraqis who feared a spillover of the Gulf war into the Kingdom.

According to the Jordanian source, police had given chase to the two vehicles after they were observed behaving suspiciously. The source did not say when the arms found in the vehicle could have entered Jordan.

The flow of smuggled arms added to the weapons which were already in possession of Iraqis who feared a spillover of the Gulf war into the Kingdom.

According to the Jordanian source, police had given chase to the two vehicles after they were observed behaving suspiciously. The source did not say when the arms found in the vehicle could have entered Jordan.

The flow of smuggled arms added to the weapons which were already in possession of Iraqis who feared a spillover of the Gulf war into the Kingdom.

According to the Jordanian source, police had given chase to the two vehicles after they were observed behaving suspiciously. The source did not say when the arms found in the vehicle could have entered Jordan.

The flow of smuggled arms added to the weapons which were already in possession of Iraqis who feared a spillover of the Gulf war into the Kingdom.

According to the Jordanian source, police had given chase to the two vehicles after they were observed behaving suspiciously. The source did not say when the arms found in the vehicle could have entered Jordan.

The flow of smuggled arms added to the weapons which were already in possession of Iraqis who feared a spillover of the Gulf war into the Kingdom.

According to the Jordanian source, police had given chase to the two vehicles after they were observed behaving suspiciously. The source did not say when the arms found in the vehicle could have entered Jordan.

The flow of smuggled arms added to the weapons which were already in possession of Iraqis who feared a spillover of the Gulf war into the Kingdom.

According to the Jordanian source, police had given chase to the two vehicles after they were observed behaving suspiciously. The source did not say when the arms found in the vehicle could have entered Jordan.

The flow of smuggled arms added to the weapons which were already in possession of Iraqis who feared a spillover of the Gulf war into the Kingdom.

According to the Jordanian source, police had given chase to the two vehicles after they were observed behaving suspiciously. The source did not say when the arms found in the vehicle could have entered Jordan.

The flow of smuggled arms added to the weapons which were already in possession of Iraqis who feared a spillover of the Gulf war into the Kingdom.

According to the Jordanian source, police had given chase to the two vehicles after they were observed behaving suspiciously. The source did not say when the arms found in the vehicle could have entered Jordan.

The flow of smuggled arms added to the weapons which were already in possession of Iraqis who feared a spillover of the Gulf war into the Kingdom.

According to the Jordanian source, police had given chase to the two vehicles after they were observed behaving suspiciously. The source did not say when the arms found in the vehicle could have entered Jordan.

The flow of smuggled arms added to the weapons which were already in possession of Iraqis who feared a spillover of the Gulf war into the Kingdom.

According to the Jordanian source, police had given chase to the two vehicles after they were observed behaving suspiciously. The source did not say when the arms found in the vehicle could have entered Jordan.

The flow of smuggled arms added to the weapons which were already in possession of Iraqis who feared a spillover of the Gulf war into the Kingdom.

According to the Jordanian source, police had given chase to the two vehicles after they were observed behaving suspiciously. The source did not say when the arms found in the vehicle could have entered Jordan.

The flow of smuggled arms added to the weapons which were already in possession of Iraqis who feared a spillover of the Gulf war into the Kingdom.

According to the Jordanian source, police had given chase to the two vehicles after they were observed behaving suspiciously. The source did not say when the arms found in the vehicle could have entered Jordan.

The flow of smuggled arms added to the weapons which were already in possession of Iraqis who feared a spillover of the Gulf war into the Kingdom.

According to the Jordanian source, police had given chase to the two vehicles after they were observed behaving suspiciously. The source did not say when the arms found in the vehicle could have entered Jordan.

The flow of smuggled arms added to the weapons which were already in possession of Iraqis who feared a spillover of the Gulf war into the Kingdom.

According to the Jordanian source, police had given chase to the two vehicles after they were observed behaving suspiciously. The source did not say when the arms found in the vehicle could have entered Jordan.

The flow of smuggled arms added to the weapons which were already in possession of Iraqis who feared a spillover of the Gulf war into the Kingdom.

According to the Jordanian source, police had given chase to the two vehicles after they were observed behaving suspiciously. The source did not say when the arms found in the vehicle could have entered Jordan.

The flow of smuggled arms added to the weapons which were already in possession of Iraqis who feared a spillover of the Gulf war into the Kingdom.

According to the Jordanian source, police had given chase to the two vehicles after they were observed behaving suspiciously. The source did not say when the arms found in the vehicle could have entered Jordan.

The flow of smuggled arms added to the weapons which were already in possession of Iraqis who feared a spillover of the Gulf war into the Kingdom.

According to the Jordanian source, police had given chase to the two vehicles after they were observed behaving suspiciously. The source did not say when the arms found in the vehicle could have entered Jordan.

The flow of smuggled arms added to the weapons which were already in possession of Iraqis who feared a spillover of the Gulf war into the Kingdom.

According to the Jordanian source, police had given chase to the two vehicles after they were observed behaving suspiciously. The source did not say when the arms found in the vehicle could have entered Jordan.

The flow of smuggled arms added to the weapons which were already in possession of Iraqis who feared a spillover of the Gulf war into the Kingdom.

According to the Jordanian source, police had given chase to the two vehicles after they were observed behaving suspiciously. The source did not say when the arms found in the vehicle could have entered Jordan.

The flow of smuggled arms added to the weapons which were already in possession of Iraqis who feared a spillover of the Gulf war into the Kingdom.

According to the Jordanian source, police had given chase to the two vehicles after they were observed behaving suspiciously. The source did not say when the arms found in the vehicle could have entered Jordan.

The flow of smuggled arms added to the weapons which were already in possession of Iraqis who feared a spillover of the Gulf war into the Kingdom.

According to the Jordanian source, police had given chase to the two vehicles after they were observed behaving suspiciously. The source did not say when the arms found in the vehicle could have entered Jordan.

The flow of smuggled arms added to the weapons which were already in possession of Iraqis who feared a spillover of the Gulf war into the Kingdom.

According to the Jordanian source, police had given chase to the two vehicles after they were observed behaving suspiciously. The source did not say when the arms found in the vehicle could have entered Jordan.

The flow of smuggled arms added to the weapons which were already in possession of Iraqis who feared a spillover of the Gulf war into the Kingdom.

According to the Jordanian source, police had given chase to the two vehicles after they were observed behaving suspiciously. The source did not say when the arms found in the vehicle could have entered Jordan.

The flow of smuggled arms added to the weapons which were already in possession of Iraqis who feared a spillover of the Gulf war into the Kingdom.

According to the Jordanian source, police had given chase to the two vehicles after they were observed behaving suspiciously. The source did not say when the arms found in the vehicle could have entered Jordan.

The flow of smuggled arms added to the weapons which were already in possession of Iraqis who feared a spillover of the Gulf war into the Kingdom.

According to the Jordanian source, police had given chase to the two vehicles after they were observed behaving suspiciously. The source did not say when the arms found in the vehicle could have entered Jordan.

The flow of smuggled arms added to the weapons which were already in possession of Iraqis who feared a spillover of the Gulf war into the Kingdom.

According to the Jordanian source, police had given chase to the two vehicles after they were observed behaving suspiciously. The source did not say when the arms found in the vehicle could have entered Jordan.

The flow of smuggled arms added to the weapons which were already in possession of Iraqis who feared a spillover of the Gulf war into the Kingdom.

According to the Jordanian source, police had given chase to the two vehicles after they were observed behaving suspiciously. The source did not say when the arms found in the vehicle could have entered Jordan.

The flow of smuggled arms added to the weapons which were already in possession of Iraqis who feared a spillover of the Gulf war into the Kingdom.

According to the Jordanian source, police had given chase to the two vehicles after they were observed behaving suspiciously. The source did not say when the arms found in the vehicle could have entered Jordan.

The flow of smuggled arms added to the weapons which were already in possession of Iraqis who feared a spillover of the Gulf war into the Kingdom.

According to the Jordanian source, police had given chase to the two vehicles after they were observed behaving suspiciously. The source did not say when the arms found in the vehicle could have entered Jordan.

The flow of smuggled arms added to the weapons which were already in possession of Iraqis who feared a spillover of the Gulf war into the Kingdom.

According to the Jordanian source, police had given chase to the two vehicles after they were observed behaving suspiciously. The source did not say when the arms found in the vehicle could have entered Jordan.

The flow of smuggled arms added to the weapons which were already in possession of Iraqis who feared a spillover of the Gulf war into the Kingdom.

According to the Jordanian source, police had given chase to the two vehicles after they were observed behaving suspiciously. The source did not say when the arms found in the vehicle could have entered Jordan.

The flow of smuggled arms added to the weapons which were already in possession of Iraqis who feared a spillover of the Gulf war into the Kingdom.

According to the Jordanian source, police had given chase to the two vehicles after they were observed behaving suspiciously. The source did not say when the arms found in the vehicle could have entered Jordan.

The flow of smuggled arms added to the weapons which were already in possession of Iraqis who feared a spillover of the Gulf war into the Kingdom.

According to the Jordanian source, police had given chase to the two vehicles after they were observed behaving suspiciously. The source did not say when the arms found in the vehicle could have entered Jordan.

The flow of smuggled arms added to the weapons which were already in possession of Iraqis who feared a spillover of the Gulf war into the Kingdom.

According to the Jordanian source, police had given chase to the two vehicles after they were observed behaving suspiciously. The source did not say when the arms found in the vehicle could have entered Jordan.

The flow of smuggled arms added to the weapons which were already in possession of Iraqis who feared a spillover of the Gulf war into the Kingdom.

According to the Jordanian source, police had given chase to the two vehicles after they were observed behaving suspiciously. The source did not say when the arms found in the vehicle could have entered Jordan.

The flow of smuggled arms added to the weapons which were already in possession of Iraqis who feared a spillover of the Gulf war into the Kingdom.

According to the Jordanian source, police had given chase to the two vehicles after they were observed behaving suspiciously. The source did not say when the arms found in the vehicle could have entered Jordan.

The flow of smuggled arms added to the weapons which were already in possession of Iraqis who feared a spillover of the Gulf war into the Kingdom.

According to the Jordanian source, police had given chase to the two vehicles after they were observed behaving suspiciously. The source did not say when the arms found in the vehicle could have entered Jordan.

The flow of smuggled arms added to the weapons which were already in possession of Iraqis who feared a spillover of the Gulf war into the Kingdom.

According to the Jordanian source, police had given chase to the two vehicles after they were observed behaving suspiciously. The source did not say when the arms found in the vehicle could have entered Jordan.

The flow of smuggled arms added to the weapons which were already in possession of Iraqis who feared a spillover of the Gulf war into the Kingdom.

According to the Jordanian source, police had given chase to the two vehicles after they were observed behaving suspiciously. The source did not say when the arms found in the vehicle could have entered Jordan.

The flow of smuggled arms added to the weapons which were already in possession of Iraqis who feared a spillover of the Gulf war into the Kingdom.

According to the Jordanian source, police had given chase to the two vehicles after they were observed behaving suspiciously. The source did not say when the arms found in the vehicle could have entered Jordan.

The flow of smuggled arms added to the weapons which were already in possession of Iraqis who feared a spillover of the Gulf war into the Kingdom.

According to the Jordanian source, police had given chase to the two vehicles after they were observed behaving suspiciously. The source did not say when the arms found in the vehicle could have entered Jordan.

The flow of smuggled arms added to the weapons which were already in possession of Iraqis who feared a spillover of the Gulf war into the Kingdom.

According to the Jordanian source, police had given chase to the two vehicles after they were observed behaving suspiciously. The source did not say when the arms found in the vehicle could have entered Jordan.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation

Established 1975

الجordan times

Chairman of the Board of Directors:

MARMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:

MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:

GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,

University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Faximile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Small sign of compromise

THE IDEA floated earlier this week by Yossi Beilin, the Israeli deputy foreign minister, that East Jerusalem be granted limited autonomy on par with the rest of the West Bank could be the beginning of a process that aims at finding an equitable solution to the thorny subject of the Holy City.

According to this proposal, Jerusalem would remain united on urban and administrative levels but the Jewish population would be tied politically to Israel and the Palestinians to the Palestinian "entity" in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

As presently constituted, this formulation does not meet the requirements of U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 that applies to all the occupied Arab territories and calls for complete Israeli withdrawal from them including Arab Jerusalem.

That notwithstanding, the Beilin formula drew immediate negative reaction from Mayor Teddy Kollek, who had earlier rebuffed a proposal by Hanan Ashrawi on making Jerusalem a joint Arab-Israeli capital by saying that "there is no room for two capitals and two municipalities."

No doubt the idea of the Israeli deputy foreign minister on the future of the Holy City was not accidentally floated. The Israeli government, under Yitzhak Rabin, must have known by now that peace in the Middle East could not be established without a just settlement of the issue of Jerusalem. As His Majesty King Hussein has repeatedly pointed out, the fate of the city must be determined collectively by the three monotheistic faiths in order to enjoy lasting effect. Maybe with this in mind, the negotiations on Jerusalem have been put off till a later stage beginning no later than the third year of Palestinian autonomy.

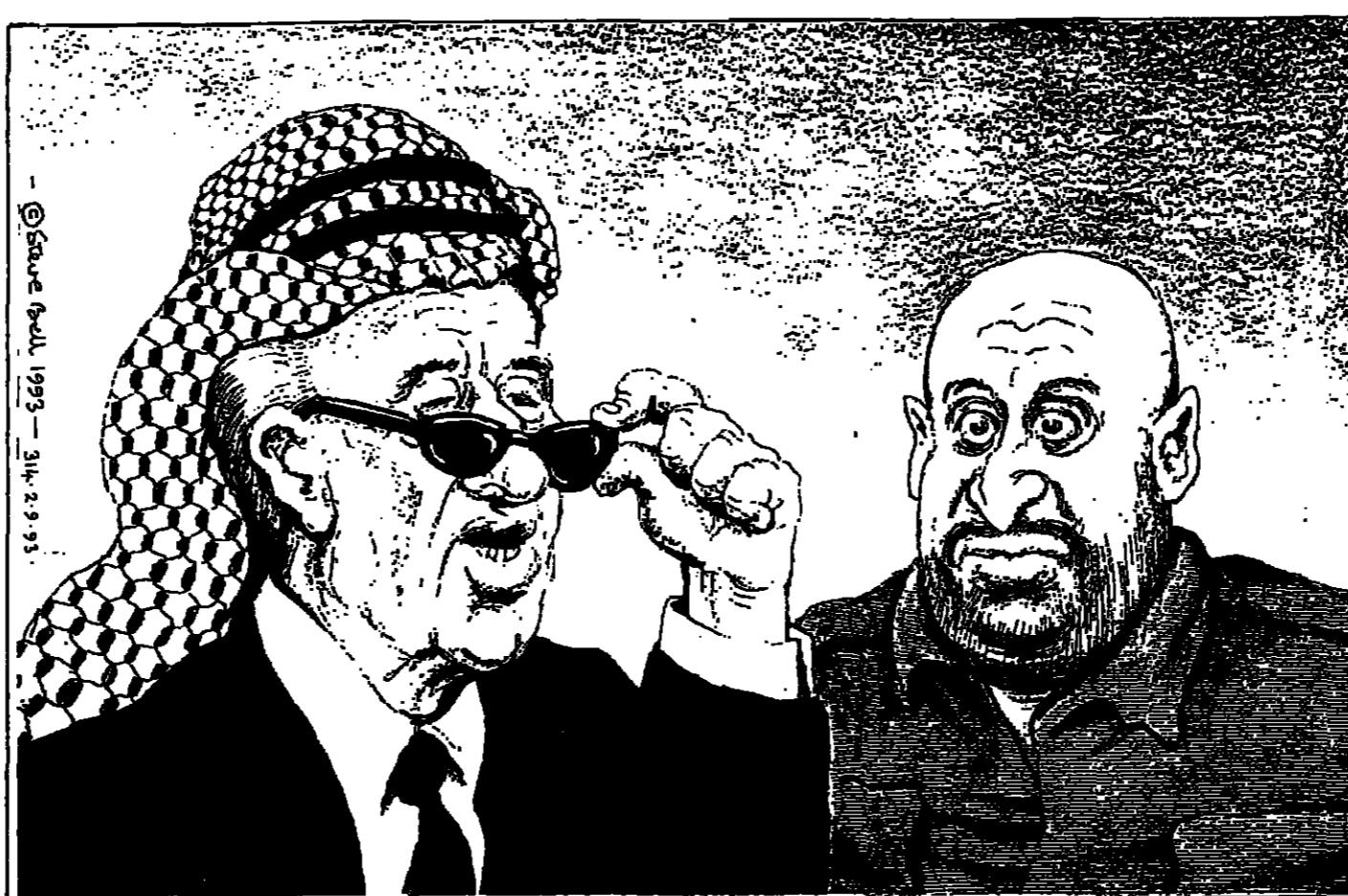
Clearly, there is no perfect solution to the future of the city that would satisfy completely and concurrently everybody concerned — Christians, Muslims or Jews. A compromise scheme needs to be articulated and developed that meets the bare minimum requirements of the three religions.

Whether the joint capital formula presented by the Palestinian side or any other plan is the final choice of all the concerned parties, a considerable amount of ingenuity and good faith is called for in the implementation stage. The fact that the Rabin government through its deputy foreign minister is entertaining new thoughts on the subject may suggest that there is still room for successful negotiations on it. Beilin happens to be a close confidant of Foreign Minister Peres and the two are among the prime architects of the Oslo accord between the PLO and Israel. Obviously Israel is budging on the controversial issue, albeit not enough, and this development offers new possibilities for the quest for a final and permanent solution to the whole Arab-Israeli conflict.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

SAWT AL SHAAB Arabic daily backed King Hussein's call for an urgent Arab summit meeting to convene and discuss the developments in the Middle East. This meeting is of paramount importance in view of the agreement reached recently by the Palestinians and the Israelis on autonomy rule and the Gaza-Jericho first option, said the daily. This summit meeting is also needed to give its blessings to the Israeli-Syrian and Israeli-Jordanian agreements which are expected in the current Arab-Israeli peace talks in Washington, added the paper. What is required at the moment is a unified Arab stand and strategy with regard to the situation and the new realities in the Arab region in the wake of these agreements which constitute a turning point in the history of the Arab World, continued the paper. Yasser Arafat and many Arab leaders are in agreement with King Hussein's idea of a summit meeting to review all these issues and to chart strategies to safeguard the Arab Nation's security.

A COLUMNIST in Sawt Al Shaab said that the private schools are exploiting students by forcing them to pay high prices for books which are provided by the government at nominal price. These private schools have been making great profit by selling the books to the students at a time when these same schools are raising the tuition fees at will, with total disregard of the ministry's regulation, said Nazih Qusus. Indeed, some students have reported that their schools had sold them the books at double the price they are charged by the bookshop and this is considered a rip off that our society should fight, he added. We suggest that the Ministry of Education fixes price tags on each of the books it sells to the private schools so as to prevent their prices from being manipulated, said the writer. It is not possible for the Ministry of Education to send teams of inspectors and watch the sale of each school textbook at the private schools in order to control the situation, he added; therefore, the ministry can either resort to fixing price tags or request that all the private school students buy their books directly from the ministry itself.



PLO cash crisis casts shadow over talks

By Clare Pedrick

ROME — As Israel and the Palestinians moved closer to what appeared to be a historic step forward in their negotiations last week, Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials warned that a desperate cash crisis was threatening the future of the entire peace process. News of the accord for mutual recognition and limited self-rule for Palestinians in part of the occupied territories coincided with the announcement that the Rome office of the PLO, one of the most important in Europe, will almost certainly have to close due to lack of funds.

And as the new round of peace talks opened in Washington D.C., chief Palestinian negotiator Faisal Husseini declared that the Arab delegation had been cut back drastically because the PLO no longer had the money to pay for hotel bills and airfares. The economic crisis facing the PLO is the most serious in its 28-year history, say leading Palestinian officials. Once flush with money liberally supplied by its Arab supporters, the organisation is on the verge of bankruptcy. The turnaround in the PLO's financial fortunes is largely the result of the Gulf war; PLO leader Yasser Arafat's decision to side with Iraq cost him dear. Almost overnight, the organisation's Gulf state sponsors withdrew their financial support. Saudi Arabia, previously the PLO's most generous backer, halted its approximately \$85 million a year contribution.

Further damage to the PLO coffers was caused by the expulsion of 400,000 Palestinians working in Kuwait, the biggest Palestinian community in the Arab World. Like all Palestinians working overseas, the Kuwait-based community paid 5 per cent of its salary to the PLO, accounting for a total 10 per cent of the entire PLO budget. "Since September 1990 (the month after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait), the PLO has lost 85 per cent of what it had in 1989," said Nemer Hammad, PLO representative in Rome. "Our income comes almost entirely from contributions, and our main income came from what the Arab states decided to give us at their summits. Now that has stopped."

A series of economy measures introduced to cushion the short-fall failed to stop the organisation sliding towards economic disaster. In spite of selling investments and cutting back on expenditure, the organisation faces financial ruin, say PLO officials. And that could spell serious trouble for the future of the peace negotiations, they warn. According to Mr. Husseini, the precarious financial situation "puts the entire peace process in danger."

Said Mr. Nemer Hammad: "It is very serious, because it is a real crisis that is creating a negative impact even on the peace process." Aside from the airfares to the peace talks in Washington, the PLO is struggling to find the \$65,000 still owed in hotel bills for the earlier round of talks in the U.S. capital. "If it gets to the stage where we have to cut the size of the delegation going to Washington, you can imagine how serious the situation has become," said Mr. Hammad. "But reducing the delegation poses grave problems. When you are taking part in very difficult and serious negotiations, you need secretaries and other back-ups. And even if we do cut the delegation, that still won't solve the problem of the hotel. They are still pressing for the bill to be paid."

Such practical considerations apart, the PLO's critical financial situation poses other dangers to the outcome of the peace talks. The crisis presents a serious threat to the already fragile position of the PLO leadership, say some analysts. And if not resolved quickly, it could prove to

be the final straw for PLO chief Yasser Arafat, already in a highly vulnerable position and strongly challenged from within the organisation.

In recent weeks, the 64-year-old leader has come under increasing fire from critics within the PLO who accuse him of too authoritarian a line, of giving too many concessions to the Israelis — and of being dictatorial in his management of PLO funds. Abdallah Hourani, PLO cultural attaché and one of the most influential members in the organisation, recently accused Arafat of "selling out" the Palestinian cause and bringing the PLO to the brink of financial disaster."

Last weekend's emergency session of the executive committee — the PLO governing body — in Tunis was called after six of the 18 members threatened to resign in protest at Mr. Arafat's alleged bad leadership methods.

Ever the skilled tactician, Mr. Arafat appears to have quashed the rebellion, at least for the time being, rallying support for the peace accord, which would give Palestinians limited autonomy in the Gaza Strip and West Bank city of Jericho, with a promise of more to come. The peace agreement with the Israelis holds out hope for a solution to some of the PLO's financial problems too. Mr. Arafat's strategy appears to be based on the fervent hope that the PLO's moderate stand at the peace talks will be rewarded by the international community in the form of investment aid and, perhaps, renewed funding from the Arab World.

But reactivating the economy of the occupied territories, devastated by the conflict with Israel, will cost millions. The World Bank has estimated that \$300 million will be needed in the next three years to kick-start the economy in the Gaza Strip alone. And the settlement with Israel calls for the Palestinians to take over responsibility for costly day-to-day services, such as the running of a local police force. Lurking in the background will be the ever-present threat of extremist groups, such as Hamas, bitterly opposed to any compromise with Israel. The poverty of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank makes a fertile breeding ground for fundamentalist extremists. One of Mr. Arafat's biggest challenges will be in producing concrete evidence to the 1.8 million Palestinians living in the occupied territories that backing his peace settlement will put food on the table and produce jobs for the unemployed.

So far, says Rome PLO representative Nemer Hammad, the Palestinians of the occupied territories have had scant reward for what, as he points out, was described by the U.S. government as a "courageous decision" to take part in the peace talks which opened in Madrid in the fall of 1991. "We had expected that such a difficult but courageous decision by the PLO leadership would be rewarded by the U.S. and by others, perhaps even financially, so that the Palestinian people would be encouraged into thinking that negotiations could lead to something better," he said. "There were promises from the U.S. not just from the Bush administration, but from the highest levels of the new American administration," he added.

That money has failed to materialise, and in the occupied territories, things have gone from bad to worse. A decision in March by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to ban Palestinians living in the occupied territories from crossing over into Israel to work has left 130,000 Palestinians without jobs in an area where over 50 per cent of the population is already unemployed. The decision was made after a series of attacks on Israelis. "Most of the Palestinians worked on the black market, in the sense that they received no social security or pension con-

tributions," said Mr. Hammad. "But their earnings added up to a daily income of between \$3 and \$3.5 million, and that was creating a certain movement in the Palestinian market. Now they are unemployed and have no prospect of finding work."

As the talks have dragged on, says Mr. Hammad, many Palestinians in the occupied territories have lost heart and lost patience. "There is no doubt that there is less support among Palestinians now for the peace process than when it began," said the Rome PLO representative.

In his office in Rome's Parioli district, Nemer Hammad, who has been based in Italy for seven years, faces his own ordeal. Neither he nor his staff have been paid a salary for two months, the rent on the building is three months overdue. One of the two telephone lines has been cut off and the bank is putting on the pressure for repayment of a \$36,000 overdraft. "Luckily, we have an understanding landlord, but he can't wait much longer," said Mr. Hammad, his desk covered with a pile of bills and final notices. "This is not a case of economic deadlock. The Rome office will have to close. It is impossible to continue like this. Even I personally cannot afford to go on. None of us here has received so much as a lira for the past two months."

Mr. Hammad breaks off to field a telephone call about 15 million lire (\$10,000) owed by the PLO for insurance contributions for its Rome staff. He is given a new deadline of mid-September. Another call follows, once again on the thorny subject of debts and money. These days, Mr. Hammad seems to deal with little else, a continual round of humiliating requests for more time to pay, punctuated by desperate appeals for contributions from the Italian friends of the PLO who have shown support in the past.

The closure of the Rome office will be a bitter blow for the PLO. It has long been considered one of the organisation's most important "embassies," partly because of its strategic geographical position, but also because of the special relationship between Italy and the Palestinians. Sympathetic to the Palestinian cause from the outset, the Italian government has proved to be the PLO's best friend in Europe. Italy is the occupied territories' second biggest European supporter in financial terms. Only the European Community makes a bigger contribution.

Indeed, while it was the Gulf war that brought things to a head, the PLO's first financial problems date back to 1988, when Jordanian King Hussein decided to hand over the West Bank to Palestinian administration, a move that was welcomed on emotional grounds, but which posed considerable economic difficulties. "Suddenly, we were confronted by a situation where we had to finance everything that had previously been paid for by the Hashemite Kingdom — schools, universities, municipalities," said Mr. Hammad. "With a population of 1.8 million in the occupied territories, we have the problem that we carry the responsibility of a government, but we cannot collect taxes. Yet it still has all the burdens, and more, of any normal government."

If foreign help is not forthcoming for the occupied territories, in the form of aid, loans or investment, the peace plan may prove to be short-lived, says the PLO. Morale is at an all-time low there. Even Israel is said to be concerned over the level of poverty and degradation. "Anyone with a minimum level of intelligence in Israel must be worried," said Mr. Hammad. "We are in two rooms in the same house and if there is fire in one room the other one will not be safe."

The alternative, he says, will be "extremism and desperation, in an area where one of the main obstacles to the growth of the fundamentalist movement is the PLO." "I am talking about every kind of extremism," said the Rome PLO representative. "For me, personally, Hamas is not the most dangerous threat I can imagine. The most dangerous threat will be desperation — a situation where anyone will do anything, because they are so desperate." Mr. Hammad recently spoke to a 21-year-old Palestinian student, studying in Rome, who comes from the Gaza Strip. "I asked him what morale was like there," said the PLO official. "He said: 'Everyone of my age has only one desire. And that is to die. I do not think there can be a worse situation than that.' — World News Link.

Can Arafat keep the lid on Gaza?

By Robert Mahoney
Reuters

GAZA — Five years ago Gaza spawned the Palestinian uprising against Israel.

Now Palestinian leaders who have struck a peace deal with the Jewish state wonder whether it will rise up against them.

The Gaza Strip, an explosive cocktail of refugees, poverty and oppression, is the one place in the Israeli-occupied territories where opposition to the accord could pit armed Palestinian against armed Palestinian.

The spectre of a civil war after an Israeli troop withdrawal from Gaza chills even hardened opposition guerrillas and activists in the strip, whose 750,000 Palestinians are squeezed into wretched camps and towns stretching down to the Egyptian border.

They have stopped short of threatening to harm PLO chief Yasser Arafat who has pushed through the agreement, despite opposition from within his own Fatah movement, the main wing of the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

But they have all vowed to torpedo the unprecedented accord giving self-rule to Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho ahead of the rest of the territories. They have also promised to press on with the armed struggle against Israel.

This could lead to clashes with the Palestinian police force Mr. Arafat will use to maintain order among Arabs and to prevent attacks on the redeployed Israeli soldiers and 4,000 Jewish settlers who will remain, at least initially, in Gaza.

"Armed resistance, military action and all other forms of struggle will remain because we do not regard the agreement as ending the occupation," an activist of Hamas, the Islamic resistance movement, told Reuters.

"But even those who sign the agreement will not be a target for Hamas... Any action using force against Arafat will be a loser," he said. "The whole world will be watching us and nobody will win."

Hamas is the strongest and militarily most active group in the strip. It receives funds from abroad, including Iran, according to Palestinians and Israeli security sources.

Hamas, fellow Muslim fundamentalist group Islamic Jihad, and dissident factions of the PLO, can between them muster about 100 armed guerrillas, the sources said.

Up to now they have been fighting the Israeli army and intelligence agencies which have had great success in keeping weapons from filtering into the territories. Although the agreement leaves Israel in overall charge of security some guerrillas believe the flow of guns could speed up.

"After the Israeli withdrawal it

Selling activist government to a sceptical audience

By John King
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The best test for President Clinton's "reinventing government" initiative may be whether it revives Joy Morris' faith in Washington or sways Dennis Martina's vote.

After all, Mr. Clinton's proposal is designed not just to slash the federal bureaucracy, but also to sell the idea of activist government to a highly sceptical public.

At stake is the public reception down the road for many of Mr. Clinton's centrepiece ideas, from health care and welfare reform to an aggressive government role in job retraining.

But there will be obstacles galore, not least among them entrenched congressional and special-interest opposition to some proposals, as well as profound public doubt that any politician will truly deliver reforms.

On the latter point, Ms. Morris and Mr. Martina are telling extremes.

Ms. Morris is a 27-year-old mortgage company worker from the St. Louis suburbs who voted for Mr. Clinton in November.

"I think he promises too much, like any politician," she said. "I don't really think he can do all he says he will.... Once they get to Washington, they're all pretty much the same."

Mr. Martina, a fisherman from the Florida Panhandle, cast a protest vote for Ross Perot last year because "it's time to run the government like a business and no politician knows how to do that. I don't trust any of them."

Such attitudes — hardly unique — await the review, led by Vice President Al Gore, that will recommend deep cuts in the federal work force and new government purchasing guidelines. It also will promise citizens such tangible results as faster tax returns and quicker answers to questions about government programmes.

"It's going to be a tough sell," said Mr. Gore, "but it's important to them."

will be easier to get arms," said Samir, a member of Islamic Jihad. He said his group had instructions from its Damascus-based leader Fathi Shikaki to resist the accord but not to sue Palestinian blood.

But he acknowledged that fighting Israelis could bring his group into conflict with the Palestinians.

"I believe that the Islamic groups will escalate the fight against Israel... and will not allow anybody to prevent them," Samir said.

Mr. Arafat and the Israeli's will be forced to head off such a clash. Fatah will have to pump men and money into Gaza. Faisal Al Husseini, Fatah's senior leader in the West Bank, said last week the police force would have to number up to 30,000 men, half from outside the territories. A handful of Arabs from the territories are already being trained in Jordan.

The core of the police, to be known as the Palestine central security force, will be drawn from the thousands of PLO former guerrillas and soldiers scattered throughout the Arab World in the Palestine Liberation Army, PLO sources said.

Their main task will be to enforce Fatah's rule and stop attacks which would bring a swift Israeli response. Regular police work would be done by a resurrected local Arab police force which fell apart at the start of the intifada.

Israeli security sources said the Israelis were still studying how the new policing would work. The army would keep open some strategic roads and continue to guard settlers.

Both the Israeli army chief and his deputy have said the agreement would make their fight against guerrillas more difficult. It was not clear how Israelis would cooperate and share intelligence with Mr. Arafat's men.

Some impressions from a recent visit to Lebanon

By Pascal B. Karmy

The first thing which struck me on arrival in Beirut, a couple of months ago, while riding a taxi from Beirut airport, was the devastation which had befallen the Lebanese capital after more than fifteen years of internecine fighting between several factions of Lebanon. Indeed, I could hardly recognise some streets and districts of Beirut which used to be so familiar to me during my twelve years stay in Beirut, between 1964 and 1976.

Hundreds, if not thousands, of buildings are now mere rubble; others are distorted, or dilapidated, and should be blown up as they are no longer safe for living in, yet, others are pock-marked by bullet or missile and are so ugly that they need complete renovation. The last fighting between General Aoun's army and Samir Geagea's Lebanese forces brought more havoc and destruction to many areas, especially in Qleit, and had a detrimental effect on the standing and morale of the Christians and more so on the Maronites. It breaks the heart to see the hotels once the pride of Beirut — St. Georges, Phoenicia, Holiday Inn, destroyed by the war. The old-time hectically busy commercial centre of Beirut, known as Al Bourj, is hardly recognisable because of the fallen or damaged buildings and the high growth, thick grass and weeds which cover it. Bab Idrees, Riad Solti square, the banks street and other areas in Beirut make one wonder how the people of Beirut could destroy their own city with their own hands.

Hauri Street, which once resembled Oxford Street in London, has regained some of its attractive features which distinguished it before 1975. It has not, however, managed to come back to the glory of its heydays of the 1960s. Cafes, luxury shops and bookshops are busy with clients. Money exchangers are numerous in the western and eastern sections of Beirut.

The U.S. dollar is acceptable everywhere in Lebanon as if it were Lebanese state currency and in some places it is preferable to the Lebanese pound. The Beirut port is very active. There are no longer private ports controlled by different Lebanese sectarian parties. One can see in the eastern part of Beirut and on the slopes of the mountains near Jounieh new residence and business centres. Public utilities and services, such as water, electricity and telephones are not available all day. Water for washing is plenty, but not for drinking. Electricity is available a few hours a day or at night time. Owners of buildings or apartments have installed electric generators and they are operated when the state electricity does not function. Telephones do not function regularly.

The Lebanese pound is still at its lowest ebb. Inflation is very high. The cost of living is high. A foreigner who stays in Beirut for some time wonders how the average man can afford to live in such difficult economic circumstances. Apparently many are being financially helped by their relatives abroad; others live on medium- or long-term loans, waiting for better days, while others live from the proceeds of commercial dealings. Unemployment is estimated at 60 per cent.

Despite difficult economic conditions as far as the average man is concerned, one may be surprised to find that almost every Lebanese owns a car, although it may be antiquated or dented. Many Lebanese still spend holidays in mountain resorts, or enjoy night life but that can be explained by the fact that they are very resourceful people.

The traffic in Beirut is very congested and many streets are bottlenecked. Beirut is a big garage, especially so in the winter season when schools and universities open and the mountain resorters come down to Beirut.

To drive in Beirut nowadays, one has to be a dexterous driver to avoid collision or cause accidents.

There are very few traffic policemen and traffic lights are nonexistent. I have been told that hundreds of young drivers do not hold driving licences and I myself witnessed some fathers giving their cars to their sons with no driving licences. I understand that this may happen in Amman, but I noticed that this practice is rather frequent in Beirut.

One of the acute problems facing the Lebanese government is the situation of thousands of displaced persons who occupy deserted empty buildings or apartments. Now the owners of those premises are asking the occupants to be evicted. But on the other hand some of the premises of those displaced persons are either occupied by other displaced persons or have been destroyed during the war and they have no dwellings to live in. One of the solutions is to effect interchange of displaced persons from one area to another, but this may not be applicable in all cases. What is essentially required is the reconstruction of destroyed or damaged buildings or the construction of a complex of new buildings in specific areas to house the displaced persons. In effect, private companies are now embarking upon such projects against payment of a fair price, payable by installments.

In my opinion, what Lebanon is a sort of a Marshall plan, similar to the one applied for the recovery of Europe in the aftermath of World War II so as to rebuild and renovate the infrastructure of Beirut and its suburbs.

Such a plan could be financed by the European Community, Japan and the U.S. and implemented and supervised by an international consortium in collaboration and coordination with the Lebanese government.

Public security is prevailing and government prestige and authority are fair by the Lebanese and foreigners. This should encourage foreigners and the wealthy Lebanese living abroad to invest

in Lebanon.

Some causes of the Lebanese civil war

The observations on some aspects of the present state of Lebanon lead us to discuss the causes of the Lebanese civil war.

One cannot determine a single cause. Many factors and elements were involved in this war. Some are internal, others are external. In his latest new book "Lebanon, Fire and Ember: A History of the Lebanese Civil War," the author Dilip Hiro says that the real cause of the war was the determination of the Maronite community — increasingly dominated by its bigoted militiamen — to retain the political privileges granted them by the French during their mandate over Lebanon. According to Hiro, the major mistake of the Maronites, who had at the time the Syrians on their side, was to look to Israel as their protector, ignoring the fact that Israel and Syria are chronically hostile to each other; that alliance was simply too dangerous for Syria to accept.

After all, Hiro claims that quite early in the civil war there were no less than 1,500 Israeli advisors in Maronistan.

In his book "Le Dernier Quart de Siècle" by the French writer and journalist André Fontaine, published in 1976, he wrote (translated from French): "The well-known National Pact, which distributed the powers in Lebanon before the civil war, reflected the balance of powers before World War II. It was futile to pretend to maintain it as it was once this balance of forces had changed.... The National Pact was founded upon the numerical superiority of the Christian community in regard to that of the Muslims. This superiority has however ceased to exist for a long time. The social equilibrium was based in fact on the alliance between the bourgeois class of the Maronites and Sunnis. This alliance became questionable."

The same author observes that: "In the face of the deterioration of the situation which should have opened the eyes of the Lebanese government, the latter has not seriously attempted to introduce structural reforms inasmuch as the government was deeply divided and at grips with a parliament in which every member represents a clan, a tribe, a lobby even a gang. For a long time business prosperity has concealed the acuteness of the confrontation but it has also contributed to the increase of the grudge of the contestants against the very wealthy classes. For some time there were precursory signs of the disaster."

The same author adds that: "...the intrigues of the great and small powers would not by itself be sufficient explanation for such a desperate and fierce confrontation. The latter is caused by communities which are afraid of collective annihilation, such as the Christians or the Palestinians of Lebanon."

In Kamal Jumblat's book "Pour le Liban", which was published after his assassination on March 16, 1977, Jumblat himself enumerates to the French journalist Philippe Laponsterle the causes of the Lebanese civil war; he mentions "refusal of political evolution" as the potential material cause which had sparked off the Lebanese crisis — refusal to agree to democratic evolution of institutions in tantamount to refusal to live with others, it is refusal to make concessions or make compromise deals which are indispensable to social relations. Morally speaking, refusal by the Maronites to accept true and genuine evolution is somewhat refusal of God, it was refusal of Man."

An enormous income difference separates a simple worker or an agricultural labourer, who earns seven or 10 Lebanese pounds a day, from a financier or a business man who could pocket up to LL30,000 per day.

The fourth cause, according to Jumblat, is that people who were

new ideas in Lebanon such as socialist, marxist and Maoist. Tens of centres of study were formed and young people were attracted by the glitter of new things. What had contributed to this intellectual thrust was the quasi-American dynamism. Four percent of the people own for themselves sixty per cent of the gross national income while the ninety-six per cent own the remaining forty per cent. It was really scandalous..."

An enormous income difference separates a simple worker or an agricultural labourer, who earns seven or 10 Lebanese pounds a day, from a financier or a business man who could pocket up to LL30,000 per day.

Another cause of the 'deflagration' in Lebanon in 1975 according to Jumblat was the accumulation, since 1967, of arms by the

Rummaneh, during which 27 Palestinians were massacred in a bus, was the first spark of the Lebanese war.

However, Jumblat adds that the events in Lebanon could not be dissociated from the Middle East context; without the 1967 war and the defeat in the Golan, confrontations would, perhaps, not have happened. The Israelis had also had a hand in this matter, as their plan was to encourage establishment of small sectarian states more or less independent of Druze state, an Alawite state, a Maronite state, a Kurdish state. The Israelis were active players in the Lebanese war, together with their master, the U.S. A very important declaration is attributed to Henry Kissinger: "To please Syria and defeat its attention from the Golan, give it a part of Lebanon."

In his book "The Question of Palestine", Professor Edward Said says that there were hints that Mr. Kissinger's ideas went as far as using the CIA to escalate the Lebanese war as long as that would consume the PLO.

In his book in Arabic "Between Disaster and Tragedy" published in 1979, Henry Abu Khater says that there were two aims of the Lebanese war: the first to crush the Palestinian resistance so as to force it to accept the worst settlement of the Palestine problem. But the crushing of the Palestinian resistance was not originally a Lebanese aim as the Palestinians did not pose a vital danger to Lebanon as they themselves refused reintegration in Lebanon. It was the Hebrew state which wanted to smash the Palestinian power. The second aim was to try to partition Lebanon, which was attributed to Mr. Kissinger as was done in Cyprus where he enabled the Turks to partition the island. However, Henry Abu Khater says that the Lebanese people cannot put all the blame on external plans or conspiracies and absolve themselves from responsibility for, had the Lebanese reached together an understanding, they would have put an end to any foreign interference.

The fatal mistake of the Christians of Lebanon, particularly that of the Maronite leaders, was their refusal to relinquish some of the concessions and privileges which they alone enjoyed. According to the National Pact of 1943, forged by the then Lebanese leaders, the president of the republic should be a Maronite and had almost supreme power, which had sometimes been abused. The prime minister, who should be Muslim Sunni, had almost no power or authority according to the agreement. The parliament's speaker should be a Muslim Shiite, when the Christians formed the majority as the ratio of representation in Parliament between the Christians and Muslims was 6 to 5. As André Fontaine says, the National Pact reflected in 1943 the balance of powers existing at that time but it has been no longer

valid for a long time.

Consequently, with the Taif Agreement of 1990, the powers of the president had been reduced. Now, in many areas of authority, he could not act alone, but in conjunction with the prime minister or with the cabinet of ministers. Moreover, equal representation was introduced in parliament for the Muslims and Christians.

In 1975, some of the Maronite leaders led a furious campaign against the Palestinians and put the blame on them for the break-out of the war. They used to declare that it was not a civil war but a war between the Lebanese and the Palestinians. Subsequent events proved the contrary as the war between the Lebanese themselves dragged on for fifteen years.

Moreover, there occurred in Lebanon intermittent intercommunal warfare. Civil fighting broke out between the Lebanese themselves in places where Palestinians either did not exist then or had no hand in it.

Professor Philip Hitti, author of the "History of the Arabs", states that: "Civil disturbances between Druze and Maronites, which under Turkish stimulation began in 1841, culminated in the massacre of 1860, a year which will remain infamous for all times in the annals of the land." Earlier Hitti states: "The masses among both Christians and Druze — particularly Christians — were in a state of unrest, cherishing discontent towards their feudal aristocracy. North Lebanese peasants, urged by their Maronite clergy, rose in 1858 against their local lords and planned to divide up their large estates among themselves."

In 1958 Lebanon witnessed a flareup of violence between the Lebanese themselves, in which the Palestinian refugees in Lebanon remained absolutely neutral. Kamal Jumblat, moreover, says in his book "Pour le Liban" that the Palestinian resistance was but one of the causes of the break-out of war in 1975 but had the Lebanese people not been prepared for this "explosion", it would not have occurred. And there is no doubt that Israel and Mr. Kissinger had contributed to this war to weaken the resistance and distract world public opinion from its occupation of Arab territories.

The Lebanese should have long ago reached a concord, similar to that of the Taif Agreement, although some sections of the Lebanese public consider this agreement biased and unbalanced. But such an agreement would have saved the lives of a hundred thousand people, mostly civilians, saved thousands more maimed or handicapped and saved Beirut and the suburbs from destruction. Nevertheless, I believe that Lebanon will rise again and attain progress and prosperity with the help and participation of its well-known, active, diligent and highly educated people.



Rubbles are removed by a bulldozer to make place in need of after years of civil war and Israeli attacks to new construction, a process the whole Lebanon is (AFP photo)

PLO ready, but who will pay for self-rule?

DUBAI (R) — Palestinians are ready to set up a self-rule authority four months after signing a peace deal with Israel, but the question remains where will the money come from to run it?

Washington is trying to put together an emergency fund of \$300 million for setup costs but has failed so far to obtain firm commitments from potential donors, diplomats said.

The World Bank also has unveiled a \$4.3 billion economic development plan for the West Bank and Gaza Strip covering the next eight to 10 years — an indication of the massive scale of the economic crisis in the occupied territories.

But rich Gulf states, some still reeling from the enormous costs of the Gulf war, are balky at the massive amounts of money involved.

And the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), flush with funds through the 1970s and 1980s when some of its officials were derided as playboy revolutionaries for parading in luxury cars and designer clothing, is virtually bankrupt.

Its coffers were drained after it lost its main source of income when it angered the wealthy Gulf Arab oil states over its sympathy with Iraq following Baghdad's 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Paradoxically, these same Gulf states are being asked to bear the lion's share of the emergency funding and for the World Bank plan.

Palestinians, who say the World Bank plan underestimates their needs which they put at about \$1.3 billion a year initially, say finance is a major problem that has yet to be overcome. They estimate total need over 10 years at about \$11 billion.

"The Gulf states are being

told that by pouring money into the Palestinians' homeland, they would be investing in future security and stability... that prosperity in the territories would remove a potential flashpoint for trouble that could spread to the rest of the Middle East," one diplomat said.

"Understandably, they are sceptical," he added.

Palestinian sources said the United States was seeking \$200 million from the Gulf states for the emergency fund and substantial commitments for the longer-term World Bank plan.

Gulf Cooperation Council foreign ministers, who ended a two-day meeting in Riyadh on Monday, welcomed the proposed PLO-Israel deal but made no public mention of the cash needed.

Gulf diplomats said this did not mean they would not pay.

But any contribution was likely to be limited and come from individual states rather than from their GCC regional alliance.

They said Kuwait in particular remained deeply antagonistic to the PLO and its leader, Yasser Arafat. Any aid was likely to be channeled to bodies such as the World Bank or independent Arab or Palestinian institutions rather than directly to the PLO, they added.

The diplomats said the United States had made clear it would not carry the full burden of bankrolling the peace process.

Washington was putting heavy pressure on its partners in the G-7 group of wealthy industrialised nations, especially Japan and the European Community, to take on meaningful commitments.

"They have promised to help but have yet to spell it out in dollars and cents," one diplomat said.

AL-ZAMIL

AIR CONDITIONERS

The only air conditioners that proved their high quality all over the Middle East area.

provided with:

★ Warranty for one year

★ After sale maintenance

All types & sizes are available at:

Mechanical Engineers - Abdul Rahim Taha

Tel. 611996, fax 624689, Tlx. 21680 ARTCO

& MEC Trading Corp. Tel. 642722

taxes for the PLO from a million Palestinians who used to work in the region.

Saudi Arabia paid \$850 million directly to the PLO in the 10 years to 1989 and was pumping \$6 million a month direct to the PLO until August 1990. In addition, a body which collected taxes from Palestinians and various other donations was sending regularly about \$1.5 million a month to the PLO.

The direct subsidies dried up

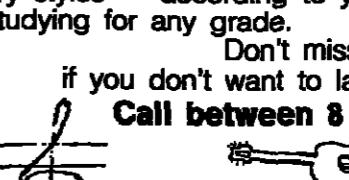
after the Gulf war but the Saudis allowed the taxes to be transferred to the PLO. Other Gulf states continue to block such payments although the five per cent income tax continued to be collected.

Palestinian sources say they are owed about \$100 million, mainly from Kuwait, which used to be home to some 450,000 Palestinians before the Gulf war. The vast majority have been forced to leave the emirate since.

Don't miss it

if you don't want to lag behind time.

Call between 8 & 10 p.m.



Tel. 659059

FOR ALL INTERESTED

Guitar playing training: the classic and contemporary styles — according to your wish. Studying for any grade.

Don't miss it

if you don't want to lag behind time.

Call between 8 & 10 p.m.



Tel. 659059

ARABIC FOR SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES

The Language Centre at the University of Jordan announces that the Intensive Course in Modern Standard Arabic for Speakers of Other Languages will commence on September 18, and will last for 16 weeks.

The programme is intensive and classes meet in the morning for 20 hours per week, Saturday, Wednesday.

Those interested please call at the Language Centre for registration during the week prior to the beginning of the course.

Orfali Art Gallery

Announces the opening of an art exhibition

Thursday, Sept. 9, 1993, at 6:00 p.m.

The gallery opens daily, except for Friday, from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. —

6 Economy

Signs of discount rate cut grow

Japan's prime minister declares economic emergency

TOKYO (AFP) — Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa Tuesday declared a "state of emergency" for the Japanese economy amid growing signs of a discount rate cut by the Bank of Japan to head off a possible double-dip recession.

Mr. Hosokawa's reported remarks, made at the annual meeting of Japanese life insurance companies, came only hours after the release of a monthly report by the Economic Planning Agency (EPA) which said the economy was at a standstill.

"Moves toward recovery are seen to be stagnating," the report said, painting an even bleaker picture of the economy than the last report in August.

Bank of Japan Governor Yasushi Mieno was meanwhile quoted as saying that there were "no signs of an economic recovery" given the continued sluggishness in personal consumption and capital investment.

The central bank of governor's comments were made at the same meeting as Mr. Hosokawa and were taken to mean that his outlook was now worse than last week when he said the risk of a downturn was increasing.

The downturn assessment of the economy Tuesday came a day after the Johman Credit Association announced a reduction in its prime lending rate from 4.5 per cent to 3.75 per cent from next week.

Such announcements by Johman have frequently preceded past cuts in the Bank of Japan's official discount rate, currently at a record low of 2.5 per cent. Moreover, Japanese media have been reporting since the weekend that the bank is poised to lower the key rate by half a percentage point, probably next week.

The ammunition justifying such a move is expected to emerge Friday when the Bank of Japan releases its quarterly survey of economic enterprises. The latest survey conducted in August is almost certain to show a further deterioration in business confidence from May when it slipped to an 18-year low.

"The economy is on the verge of falling back," Mr. Hosokawa was quoted as saying Tuesday, noting that the course of the economy had become "unpredictable" because of the year's recent appreciations and Japan's coolest summer for four decades.

"We would like to compile promptly various measures to respond to the current state of emergency and carry them out," the prime minister said.

Finance Minister Hiroshima Fuji earlier ruled out the possibility of a "double-dip" recession. "There are certainly bad economic indicators but there are also good ones," he told a news conference after a cabinet meeting.

Mr. Kubota, the EPA chief, gave some credence to the report, saying that the seven-party coalition government should focus on measures which would stimulate housing demand. "This kind of stimulus measures is most effective," he said.

Mr. Fuji, the finance minister, said a package of deregulatory measures now being prepared by the government to allow consumers to benefit from the stronger yen was likely to be ready in about two weeks. But there are no concrete plans for fiscal or monetary measures at this stage, he said.

Industry sources said the Japan Automobile Manufacturers' Association urged Mr. Hosokawa Tuesday to adopt an additional package of pump-priming measures as soon as possible.

It was not likely to have much of an impact on reviving capital investment.

International Trade and Industry Minister Hisashi Kumagai indicated otherwise, however. "It's time to make a cautious decision," he said.

Mr. Hosokawa meanwhile denied a report Tuesday that he had decided to propose a supplementary budget to parliament to revive the economy in addition to a 13.2 trillion yen (\$127 billion) package approved in April.

"We don't know anything at all yet," the prime minister told reporters. "It would take about two weeks to consider. It must be considered very cautiously."

The Youmuri Shimbun quoted government sources as saying that the extra budget of several trillion yen would include a boost for public housing and an increase in loans to home buyers and small and medium-sized enterprises.

But Ms. Kubota, the EPA chief, gave some credence to the report, saying that the seven-party coalition government should focus on measures which would stimulate housing demand. "This kind of stimulus measures is most effective," she said.

Mr. Fuji, the finance minister, said a package of deregulatory measures now being prepared by the government to allow consumers to benefit from the stronger yen was likely to be ready in about two weeks. But there are no concrete plans for fiscal or monetary measures at this stage, he said.

Industry sources said the Japan Automobile Manufacturers' Association urged Mr. Hosokawa Tuesday to adopt an additional package of pump-priming measures as soon as possible.

Finland unveils austerity budget, predicts higher unemployment, more taxes

HELSINKI (AFP) — Finland's centre-right coalition government Tuesday unveiled a draft austerity budget for 1994, predicting higher unemployment and more taxes.

The budget, which represents a

decrease of 2.5 per cent in real

terms compared with this year's

budget, totals 188 billion markkaa

(about \$32.4 billion), and the

government is predicting a modest

one per cent growth in gross

domestic product (GDP) for 1993

after a 2.5 per cent drop this year.

The estimate is based on the assumption that wage settlement will not raise labour costs in private sector next year. In public

sector the wages will drop.

After a decade of stable economic growth in the 1980's, the

Finnish economy is going through

its most serious crisis since indepen-

dence in 1917.

Finland's total output has dropped

15 per cent in three years

and in June more than

500,000 people of the five million

population were without work.

Next year unemployment, which

is only three years ago was

3.4 per cent, is expected to continue

to rise, reaching 19 per cent

next year.

Unemployment is set to remain

high for several years but should

start falling during 1994, the govern-

ment said.

The main priority of the govern-

ment is to reduce the high

level of unemployment. This

must be achieved by increasing

private sector production and em-

ployment, as the public sector is

not in a position to increase em-

ployment," the government said.

In its budget proposal, the gov-

ernment said that wage costs of

the national public sector will be

reduced by 6.5 per cent, central

government transfers to local auth-

orities are reduced substantially,

and unemployment benefits are

being curtailed.

countries and for coordinating

budget, credit, interest rate and

customs policies.

Under the terms of the accord,

the Russian Central Bank be-

came the sole centre for currency

emission for the six countries.

Russian Central Bank Gov-

ernor Viktor Geraschenko

however warned that the new

rouble zone would have to be,

enforced with harmonised legisla-

tion, adding that a "long and

difficult process" lay ahead for

the members of the new rouble

alliance. Interfax reported.

"Government officials who are

hoping to quickly solve their eco-

nomic problems are sadly mis-

taken," Mr. Geraschenko

stated.

In a joint statement carried by

the news agency, representatives

from the six countries said they

were "aware of the objective

need to safeguard their common

economic space and of the high

degree of mutual economic de-

pendence" between the former

Soviet republics.

"A concrete step has been

made towards deepening the eco-

nomics integration of the six

states," the statement said.

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1993

Russia agrees to share rouble with five former republics

adding that the heads of state of

the countries would meet in the

near future to sign the economic

union.

Russia, Belarus and Ukraine

two months ago also announced

plans to set up a new economic

union for the six countries.

Russian Central Bank Gov-

ernor Viktor Geraschenko

however warned that the new

rouble zone would have to be,

enforced with harmonised legisla-

tion, adding that a "long and

difficult process" lay ahead for

the members of the new rouble

alliance. Interfax reported.

"Government officials who are

hoping to quickly solve their eco-

nomic problems are sadly mis-

taken," Mr. Geraschenko

stated.

In a joint statement carried by

the news agency, representatives

from the six countries said they

were "aware of the objective

need to safeguard their common

economic space and of the high

degree of mutual economic de-

pendence" between the former

Soviet republics.

"A concrete step has been

made towards deepening the eco-

nomics integration of the six

states," the statement said.

Sudan sells needy cut-price food

KHARTOUM (R) — The Sudanese government has said it had provided 582 million pounds (\$3.5 million) worth of flour, cooking oil, tea, soap and other basic supplies to needy workers.

Bashir Abdul Salam, secretary of a government committee on aid for the needy, told the newspaper Al Ingaz Al Watani the commodities were sold at "reasonable" prices at places of work.

Skyrocketing prices have brought widespread misery in Sudan. Military ruler Omar Hassan Al Bashir ordered special measures in July to help the poor.

Mr. Abdul Salam gave no details of how the workplace food sales were carried out but said his committee was taking a survey before establishing a new system for distribution of essential commodities.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 8, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This morning finds you eager to make some sudden and dramatic changes or to indicate irritability with co-workers which would be untrue. Instead be inventive and circumvent the problem.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You have to adopt a new attitude if you are to get out from under an obligation to another person and tonight you see clearly a new path-way.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) A change in better understanding various friends and companions is present during the daytime while tonight finds you in tune with enjoyments you like.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Get outsiders of influence and family members to better understand one another in a forthright fashion, then you can get into organized tasks for the future.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Think about what you can best do to put new ideas into effect in your everyday routine, with the aid of a bigwig, tonight go out and enjoy a hobby.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You need to be in the world of outside activity to get best results of todays aspects and to get a long time friend to lend you a hand with a public matter.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Although property and financial affairs are important today, it is also a particularly vital time to make arrangements for future recreations with close companions.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You are highly sensitive in your reactions to persons and conditions today but also handle worldly interests, tonight invite guests into your home.

Capricorn: (December 22 to January 20) Think about what you can best do to put new ideas into effect in your everyday routine, with the aid of a bigwig, tonight go out and enjoy a hobby.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Whatever you have in mind and agree with an influential person is concerned re-

creations.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You have a good friend who can explain to you how to be more productive today while tonight consider ways to extend your re-

creations.

AMMAN EXCHANGE MARKET					
BUSES BAY CENTER - AMMAN - JORDAN ORGANIZED MARKET PRICE LIST FOR TUESDAY 07/09/1993 MORNING SESSION					
COMPANY'S NAME	TRADED VOLUME	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE	PRICE
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	3,822	5.900	5.860	5.800	
CALICO - JORDAN BANK	1,000	5.800	5.800	5.800	
JOHN LEWIS INVESTMENT BANK	6,107	4.000	4.000	4.000	
TEB SCOUTING BANK	2,157	4.000	4.000	3.950	
JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	28,649	2.900	2.800	2.650	
JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	2,000	4.000	4.000	4.000	
JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	4,458	4.000	4.000	4.250	
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	2,778	4.327	4.280	4.250	
JOHN LEWIS INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	24,128	2.300	2.300	2.300	
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	13,664	1.750	1.750	1.750	
JORDAN INSURANCE	4,150	3.700	3.700	3.700	
JOHN LEWIS PERSONAL INSURANCE	2,414	4.800	4.800	4.700	
JORDAN ELECTRIC POWER	74,844	2.470	2.470	2.470	
JOHN LEWIS POWER	5,495	1.300	1.340	1.320	
JORDAN NATIONAL DRILLING CO.	486	1.910	1.910	1.850	
JORDAN NATIONAL DRILLING CO.	1,998	0.560	0.550	0.550	
JORDAN NATIONAL DRILLING CO.	7,121	1.750	1.750	1.750	
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	7,287	0.600	0.600	0.590	
JOHN LEWIS EQUIP. REPAIR & MAINTENANCE	6,300	21.570	21.000	21.000	
JORDAN FORKS FOUNDATION / ALMA	24,050	2.200	2.170	2.150	
JOHN LEWIS EQUIP. REPAIR & MAINTENANCE	1,356	2.100	2.050	2.100	
JOHN LEWIS EQUIP. REPAIR & MAINTENANCE	12,215	2.350	2.350	2.350	
JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES	10,295	3.750	3.750	3.750	
JOHN LEWIS EQUIP. REPAIR & MAINTENANCE	15,077	6.000	6.000	6.100	
JOHN LEWIS EQUIP. REPAIR & MAINTENANCE	1,080	20.900	10.800	10.800	
JOHN LEWIS EQUIP. REPAIR & MAINTENANCE	34,734	8.610	8.580	8.610	
JOHN LEWIS EQUIP. REPAIR & MAINTENANCE	7,605	3.850	3.800	3.800	
JOHN LEWIS EQUIP. REPAIR & MAINTENANCE	4,150	4.150	4.150	4.150	
JOHN LEWIS EQUIP. REPAIR & MAINTENANCE	8,938	2.760	2.750	2.750	
JOHN LEWIS EQUIP. REPAIR & MAINTENANCE	2,000	1.700	1.700	1.700	
JOHN LEWIS EQUIP. REPAIR & MAINTENANCE	6,250	2.560	2.560	2.560	
JOHN LEWIS EQUIP. REPAIR & MAINTENANCE	1,740	1.760	1.760	1.760	
JOHN LEWIS EQUIP. REPAIR & MAINTENANCE	1,134	7.060	6.950	6.950	
JOHN LEWIS EQUIP. REPAIR & MAINTENANCE	765	1.080	1.040	1.040	
JOHN LEWIS EQUIP. REPAIR & MAINTENANCE	7,435	8.620	8.300	8.300	
JOHN LEWIS EQUIP. REPAIR & MAINTENANCE	3,190	1.980	1.950	1.950	
JOHN LEWIS EQUIP. REPAIR & MAINTENANCE	587	1.800	1.750	1.750	
JOHN LEWIS EQUIP. REPAIR & MAINTENANCE	13,782	2.500	2.500	2.500	
GRAND TOTAL	661,446				
NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET	44,462				
TRADED VOLUME IN THE PARALLEL MARKET	JD 55878				

Jordan moves to update financial, economic laws

By Samir Shafiq
Special to the Jordan Times

tion."

AMMAN — Finance Minister Sami Gammo told a gathering of the departments of customs, income tax and lands and survey were reviewing legislations and regulations in order to modernise work procedures and, at the same time, simplify dealings with the public.

He told the group of about 300 personalities from both the private and public sectors that financial reforms started Monday night that the new administrative regulations were issued "freezing the free zones from all administrative restrictions, routine and interference by various authorities."

The minister said that the new regulations "lay down the clear basis as to how to deal with an investor and how to handle the entry and exit of goods, whether in transit or to the local consump-

tion centres and to upgrade the level of services through the computerisation of all customs operations and delegation of authorities to the heads of the centres."

The final customs reform, which is currently being made, involves rewriting the existing customs law to make amendments that would include expanding decentralisation, encouraging the establishment of free zones, giving additional privileges to "temporary entry" beneficiaries and differentiating between "smuggling" and "violating."

Mr. Gammo said instructions had also been given to open technical centres for the Land and Survey Department in all the governorates in order to avoid forcing people to come to Amman for every small transaction.

Instructions have also been given for land registry departments facing work pressure to remain open until 4 p.m. to en-

able citizens to conclude their affairs.

He said that, in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice, laws pertaining to lands were under review for amendments and modernisation.

Another study is currently ex-

amining the income tax law to make amendments to it "with the aim of widening the base of taxation, lowering tax levels and simplifying collection procedures."

Mr. Gammo rejected claims that the current income tax, or any modified one, negatively affected investment in the Kingdom. He stressed that investment decisions were not based on the tax level but, rather, on the returns on investments.

The minister affirmed that the link between tax exemptions and investment was extremely weak and that investors weigh primarily the overall climate and that the decisive decision is specifically built on the returns factor.

On the proposed sales tax, Mr. Gammo said indirect taxes were the most just in developing countries, and that the sales tax will be introduced shortly.

"It (sales tax) is Jordan's destiny to implement the tax," he said.

He elaborated that an International Monetary Fund (IMF) team arrived in Jordan Sunday at the request of the government to explain to the concerned personnel the benefits of the sales tax and the steps that should be taken to implement it.

The minister noted that the IMF had all the necessary knowledge and experience about the sales tax, having supervised its application in over 85 countries.

Mr. Gammo described the sales tax as fair as it affects the largest base of taxpayers and is to be collected on the basis of consumption.

Answering a question about

businesses suffering from the overzealous inspection on ships sailing to Aqaba, Mr. Gammo said that a U.N. committee to look into compensation for damage from the sanctions on Iraq was due to arrive Tuesday in Amman.

"We made all the necessary arrangements to ensure that the committee meets all concerned government and private sector institutions in order to get the full information about Jordan's losses resulting from the sanctions on Iraq," he said.

Mr. Gammo confirmed report carried by the Jordan Times last month that Jordan had secured a 60 per cent reduction on its foreign commercial debt.

He said that an agreement reached with 80 banks to reschedule the \$895 million of commercial debt would be signed next month.

Under the terms of the agreement, the commercial debt volume was reduced by no less than 60 per cent and the payment of interest would be about \$41 million to be paid annually over 30 years instead of \$81 million had the agreement not been reached.

The minister said the Paris Club has agreed to extend the rescheduling of loans from June 30, 93 to Feb. 28, 1994. Based on this extension, \$253 million of installments and interest will be rescheduled to no less than 15 years with a seven-year grace period.

The gathering was the 9th organised by the Jordanian Businessmen Association.

(\$68 million) in June by issuing more than 1.3 million new shares, all of them snapped up by ADIA, National Bank of Abu Dhabi is also a shareholder in ADIC.

Bankers said ADIC's capital was boosted further to 341.8 million dirhams (\$93 million) from 110.3 million dirhams (\$30 million) in 1992.

The first annual installment of \$25 million was paid in July 1992.

ADIC plans to boost capital further in 1994 and 1995 by converting the remaining \$30 million of the loan.

ADIC's 1992 balance sheet was distributed to banks after an extraordinary meeting earlier this year approving the capital restructuring. It will be published in the company's annual report due for release this week.

Financial Markets Jordan Times
in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York 7/8/1993	Tokyo 7/20/93
Sterling Pound	1.5300	1.5275
Deutsche Mark	1.6160	1.6157
Swiss Franc	1.4204	1.4235
French Franc	5.6925	5.6915*
Japanese Yen	104.50	104.10
European Currency Unit	1.1650	1.1656*

100 per 1000
Foreign Opening & Close 1000 AMT
Eurocurrency Interest Rates, Date: 7/8/1993

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	3.123	3.06	3.18	3.37
Sterling Pound	5.87	5.88	5.75	5.62
Deutsche Mark	6.68	6.43	6.25	5.87
Swiss Franc	4.75	4.63	4.50	4.25
French Franc	7.68	7.31	6.62	6.17
Japanese Yen	2.90	2.65	2.62	2.62
European Currency Unit	8.13	7.88	7.44	6.75

Interest rate for amounts exceeding 1,000 Dollars 1.000 per annum or equivalent.

Previous Metals Date: 7/9/1993

Metal	USD/Oz	JDGm*	Metal	USD/Oz	JDGm*
Gold	363.05	7.20	Silver	4.55	0.100

24 Karat

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 7/9/1993

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6880	0.6900
Sterling Pound	1.0514	1.0567
Deutsche Mark	0.4261	0.4282
Swiss Franc	0.4845	0.4869
French Franc	0.1212	0.1218
Japanese Yen	0.6602	0.6635

Russia says Turkish troops fired on guards in Armenia

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russian troops in Armenia reported Tuesday they came under fire from Turkish soldiers on the other side of the border despite mounting diplomatic activity to defuse tensions in the Caucasus.

Azerbaijan's acting president, Geydar Aliyev, meanwhile held a second day of talks with Russian officials in Moscow focussing on the conflict with Armenia over Nagorno-Karabakh and Russian assistance in resolving it, ITAR-TASS said.

A spokesman for the Russian Border Guards told AFP that Turkish troops had fired late Monday on Border Post 14 in the October region west of Yerevan.

No injuries were reported and the Russian Guards did not return fire, but a Border Guard official in Yerevan quoted by ITAR-TASS said the Guards Headquarters had filed an official protest over the incident.

It was the second time in as many days that Russian Border Guards reported shots being fired into Armenian territory from the other side of the border, where Turkey has massed at least four infantry battalions.

The Guards official quoted by ITAR-TASS also denounced the construction of new fortifications on the Turkish side of the border and movement by Turkish armoured vehicles and patrols in the area.

Turkish Prime Minister Tansu

Ciller, due in Moscow Wednesday to discuss border tensions in the Caucasus, told the Istanbul newspaper Hurriyet this week she would ask parliament for a declaration of war if Armenia attacked the Azerbaijani enclave of Nakchivan along the Turkish border.

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Valayati, quoted by the Iranian News Agency (IRNA), Monday, also asserted that Tehran "will not remain silent to the Armenian aggression" in Azerbaijan territory.

Iran has also concentrated troops along its northern border with Azerbaijan and has agreed to set up some 50,000 tents in southern Azerbaijan for refugees fleeing the fighting in the southwest of the country.

On Thursday, however, Moscow was to host an unofficial meeting of the so-called "Minsk group" of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) to discuss the conflict around Nagorno-Karabakh.

The session was expected to be attended by representatives from Karabakh who were to sit down for the first time for formal negotiations with representatives of Azerbaijan.

The meeting also marks Russia's return to centre stage in mediating the Karabakh conflict and coincided with a statement by Mr. Aliyev that Azerbaijan was considering joining the Com.

wealth of Independent States (CIS).

Membership in the CIS would permit Azerbaijan to sign on to a collective security treaty brokered by Russia in May 1992 which would permit Baku to request Russian military assistance.

Russian Border Guards and other troops were already present in Armenia as a result of Yerevan's membership in the treaty.

Mr. Aliyev met with Russian President Boris Yeltsin at the Kremlin Monday and said afterwards that Russia "cannot remain indifferent to the conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia."

Iran was expected to send an envoy to Armenia Tuesday to discuss the security of its frontiers and the possibility of a large influx of Azeri refugees.

The Armenian Foreign Ministry said in a statement that agreement on the envoy's visit was reached during a telephone conversation Monday between Mr. Yeltsin and his Armenian counterpart Vahan Papazyan.

The statement did not name the envoy but said he would be a personal representative of Mr. Papazyan.

The Armenian statement quoted Mr. Papazyan as saying that "Armenia was doing, is doing and will be doing everything possible to settle the Karabakh conflict by peaceful means."

Armenia has been rendering

wide moral and financial support to its ethnic kin in Nagorno-Karabakh. But Yerevan says it is not involved in the conflict directly.

Tehran has not reacted officially to reports by the Turkish government last week that Iranian troops on the Azeri border had been reinforced.

The Russian Foreign Ministry Tuesday expressed concern over Iran having sent troops into Azerbaijan.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said "we cannot support such action from Iran, whatever the motive." Gregory Karassian said these incursions would lead to "an escalation in the conflict" and increased the "risks of internationalisation" of the conflict between Azerbaijan and the Armenians over the enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh.

The ministry also said it "disagreed" with the "Nagorno-Karabakh Self-Defense Forces" offensive deep in Azerbaijan territory towards the Armenian border.

Iran sent security forces along the Arax River on its border with Azerbaijan officially to contain Azeri refugees and to guard two dams under construction.



Former first lady Imelda Marcos (right) accompanied by her children Congressman Ferdinand Marcos Jr. (left) and Imee Manotoc (centre) sing the Philippine national anthem before the flag-draped coffin of the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos upon arrival at Laog City Airport Tuesday (AFP photo)

Marcos' body arrives in Philippines

LAOAG, Philippines (R) — Imelda Marcos slumped in tears over the flag-draped coffin of her husband Ferdinand Marcos Tuesday after the body of the disgraced former president was brought home to a delirious welcome from diehard supporters.

Mumbling behind her black veil, the 64-year-old former first lady rested her head on the coffin as it arrived in Laog Plaza to lie in state. She smoothed the flag with her hand before being enveloped away by her tearful daughter Imee.

But despite the hysteria of the most fervent loyalists with their hats, T-shirts and umbrellas printed with "I love FM," the crowds were only a fraction of what organisers had been expecting.

Elaborate plans had been made up to one million people, but fewer than 20,000 were at Laog Airport in Marcos' northern stronghold to welcome him home and to accompany his coffin mounted on a horse-drawn carriage into the city.

Imelda Marcos refused to answer any questions about the low turnout, saying only: "Thank God, he's home."

As rain began to fall over Laog the remaining crowds melted away, leaving the Marcos family, friends and political allies to stand vigil over the body.

Ilocos Norte Governor Rodolfo Farinas, who was in charge of organising the funeral, said: "A lot of people will be coming in after today. We expect people to

be coming as the days go on." The low numbers did not detract from the fervour of the loyalists who travelled from Manila 400 kilometres away.

The arrival of the body on a stage built in front of the Ilocos Norte provincial capitol was the culmination of an emotional day of homecoming ceremonies for the man hailed as a god by some and as a tyrant who plundered his nation by others.

Marcos is accused of trampling human rights and, with his associates, looting up to \$10 billion during his 20-year rule. He was ousted by a "people's power" revolution in 1986 and died in exile in Hawaii in 1989.

But his loyalist supporters refuse to accept the charges against him.

"He deserves more than he's getting, I am hoping that history will be kind to him in the end," said one of his closest associates Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco.

Missing was current President Fidel Ramos, who refused to attend the funeral of his distant cousin and a man he once served as national police chief.

Instead he sent his sister Senator Leticia Ramos Shaban with a message of sympathy and reconciliation.

Mr. Ramos banned a Manila

funeral for Mr. Marcos, citing the danger that his return to the capital could incite trouble between loyalists and anti-Marcos forces.

As the plane arrived from an overnight stop in Guam, thousands of loyalists broke

through security men and surged towards the runway.

As they surrounded the plane, defying efforts of police to keep them back, Imelda Marcos broke into tears.

"Our sighs and sobs are endless because of your passing away... your love and care have ceased when your life we could not redeem," a priestess chanted in funeral rites that covered the spectrum of Christian, Muslim and tribal beliefs.

Marcos' widow, wearing a traditional black Philippine dress like her two daughters, stepped forward as 12 retired generals in full dress uniform carried the casket of the former president from the plane.

Among the mourners were loyalists from the Alpha Omega cult which believe Marcos is a God.

"Our God is Ferdinand Marcos, he is the highest father. The holy spirit will announce today that he is the highest God," said white-robed Francisca Salindang as she waited for her hero to arrive.

Marcos is to be temporarily interred in a mausoleum in his hometown Batac Friday until Mr. Ramos allows a Manila funeral.

If he remains stay in good conditions after three days of lying in state in the tropical heat, he will be put on display in a glass coffin.

Family embalmer Frank Malabed said that regular injections of preservatives, he could keep the body preserved for up to 10 years at least.

Britain says 6-year-old beef is safe

LONDON (R) — Britain has refused to withdraw six-year-old beef, released from European Community stocks, from sale to the public. Food Minister Nicolas Soames said the beef was not dangerous and it was impossible for humans to contract "mad cow" disease, Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE), from the meat. "The public can have every confidence in the really important thing... this is high quality meat, stored under the strictest European and government controls," he said. News of the aged meat caused a furor in Britain where newspapers and consumer groups demanded assurances that the beef, unsold since 1987, was safe. Mr. Soames added that butchers should warn consumers not to refreeze the meat but said there was no reason why it should be labelled as being six years old. In Brussels, the European Commission said there were no restrictions on the use of the meat. "It's usually destined for further processing or export," a spokesman for the European Community's executive said.

Ostrich drops in for breakfast and gets eaten

NAIROBI (R) — An ostrich gatecrashed breakfast at a busy cafe in eastern Kenya, sending diners fleeing. "Later, local residents killed it and distributed its meat among themselves," the daily Nation said in a report from Makueni.

Britons seek sex help from U.S. therapist

LONDON (R) — U.S. sex therapist Dr. Ruth Westheimer said she was besieged by Britons seeking sex advice and could have helped to save the marriage of Prince Charles and his estranged wife Princess Diana. The diminutive sex guru and television star who was spotted while touring Buckingham Palace Sunday said she could have given the royal couple who separated last year some advice. "If they had come to me for counseling I would have been able to help," she said.

"People should ask for advice before things reach boiling point." Tourists at the palace bombarded the 65-year-old German-born sex expert with questions about their sexual problems. "I had always been told British people were reserved but I didn't find this at all," she said. "The only difference was they were more polite. An American would come to me and say 'I can't get an orgasm', a British person would ask for my autograph first."

Woman jailed for playing music too loudly

LONDON (R) — A British woman was sentenced to a week in jail Monday for harassing her neighbours by playing her favourite pop record too loudly. Helen Stephens, 20, of Cleveland in northern England, denied the charge and collapsed in tears when the court passed the sentence. The court was told that Ms. Stephens repeatedly played the Whitney Houston song I Will Always Love You so loudly that it punctuated a double brick wall, insulation and several wardrobes and shook her neighbour's floorboards.

Owner hot under collar after dead parrot defrosts

LONDON (R) — A British woman is claiming compensation after Polly the parrot, laid to rest in a freezer to await the taxidermist, defrosted during a power cut. Car dealer Bob Jones placed Polly among the fish fingers as he wanted to preserve his precious pet for posterity, the Sun newspaper reported Tuesday. "Then I came home and found we had no electricity," Jones told the Sun.

"It was a really hot day and there was a horrible smell. I realised it was Polly." Workmen had severed electricity cables near Jones' home in Berkshire, southern England. Now he is claiming £1,000 (\$1,500) on his household insurance for Polly, who was killed in a fight with the family's Alsatian dog.

British lead the field in drinking German beer

WIESBADEN, Germany (AFP) — British beer drinkers drank the most German beer outside Germany last year, well ahead of their nearest rivals, the Italians, the National Statistical Office announced here Tuesday. Britain imported 159.1 million litres of German beer, worth 165.9 million marks (\$104 million). Italy's share was 102.4 million litres, worth 153.6 million marks, followed by 101.3 million litres to the United States \$157.7 million marks.

Pope condemns Soviet attempt to snuff out religion

SLAULIAI, Lithuania (R) — Pope John Paul, speaking at the site of a poignant symbol of Lithuania's resistance to Soviet domination, Tuesday condemned totalitarianism's attempt to snuff out religion.

The 73-year-old Polish Pontiff, on his first visit to a country in what used to be the Soviet Union, spoke in front of a mound of earth known as the "Hill of Crosses" near the northern town of Siauliai. During the decades of Soviet communism, authorities repeatedly tried and failed to destroy the hill.

"Innocents were condemned. At that time in your homeland a terrible system marked by totalitarian violence raged, a system which trampled down and humiliated man," he said.

"We come here — to the mountain of crosses — to remember all the sons and daughters of your land, as well as those sentenced, those sent to prison, to concentration camps, deported to

NEWS IN BRIEF

Japan Socialist chief to step aside

TOKYO (R) — Japan's Socialist Party chief, also a state minister in the coalition government, will step aside as chairman to prevent his party from splitting up, a party official said Tuesday. The chief government spokesman immediately stepped in to calm jitters, saying the departure of Socialist leader Sadao Yamahara — one of eight coalition leaders — would have little effect on the future of the one-month-old government. "This is not going to greatly affect (the government)," Masayoshi Takemura told a news conference. "Personnel changes among the different parties are of no concern to the coalition government," he said.

Gorbachev opens security conference

MOSCOW (AFP) — Mikhail Gorbachev Tuesday opened an international conference on global security which one analyst described as a bid by the former Soviet president to get back into world politics. The conference was jointly organised by the Gorbachev Foundation, the Gorbachev Fund in the United States and the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation. Alexander Konovalev, in charge of research at the Russian Institute on the United States and Canada, said the conference was "an attempt by Gorbachev to get back onto the world political stage as a figure still capable of initiating ideas of planetary importance." In his opening speech, Mr. Gorbachev raised such global issues as ecology, the Third World and the growing economic imbalance between the North and South. Political analysts said Mr. Gorbachev was hoping to capitalise on the current crisis on the Russian political scene, wracked by scandals, to make a comeback. He has been noticeably absent on the political scene since the end of 1991.

Thatcher takes jab at Major

BANGKOK (AFP) — Former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher took a jab Tuesday at her successor, John Major, suggesting his leadership was weak. Lady Thatcher, in a speech to Bangkok-based businessmen, drew laughter when she pointed out that she had shown, when in office, that democracy and "strong leadership" are not mutually exclusive. "You must never think that democracy cannot give rise to strong leadership. After all, it did in Singapore and it did in Britain," she said, adding after a slight pause: "And it did in Malaysia too," continued the 67-year-old Thatcher, who stepped down in late 1990 when she lost out in a leadership struggle after cabinet colleagues warned her that her Conservative Party would not win an election if she remained in power. In the same address Lady Thatcher accused the European Community of protectionism and said it risked losing its status as a major economic power amid impressive growth in the Asia-Pacific region, which she described as "the economic pivot of the future."

Major's government hits bottom

GLASGOW, Scotland (R) — Prime Minister John Major's government has slumped into fourth place in a new survey of Scottish voters, with only 15 per cent support. The embarrassing two per cent drop over last month's System Three poll puts the ruling party one percentage point behind the opposition Liberal Democrats. It is the party's worst showing for three years and the first time they have been placed at the bottom since 1986. The opposition Labour Party, the dominant party in Scotland, remained steady on 45 per cent and the Scottish National Party (SNP) held their 24 per cent share. Political analysts attribute the slump to voter concern over the impending imposition of value added tax (VAT) on domestic fuel supplies and worry about possible higher charges for water. Opposition parties claim VAT on fuel will hit families in Scotland harder than those elsewhere as they spend a higher proportion of the income on heating.

Cuba changing to adapt to world

HAVANA (R) — Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina, shrugging off foreign criticism of his country's one-party socialist system, said Monday Cuba was changing to adapt itself to a changed world. "We're not as bad as we're portrayed to be, nor as good as we would like to be," Mr. Robaina told a meeting in Havana of foreign and Cuban non-government organisations (NGOs). "The world has changed and Cuba, without abandoning the principles that have sustained it in the last three decades, is changing to adapt itself to the current times," he added. Mr. Robaina and other younger members of President Fidel Castro's government have been waging a campaign in recent months to try to improve the image abroad of the communist-ruled Caribbean island.

Kanemaru trial continues

TOKYO (AFP) — The trial of Shin Kanemaru, Japan's fallen political kingpin accused of massive tax evasion, continued here Tuesday with his defence counsel reiterating that millions of dollars in concealed wealth were not for personal use. At the first hearing on July 22, Kanemaru, 78, pleaded not guilty to evading taxes on concealed income of 1.85 billion yen (\$17.7 million) earned between 1987 and 1989. Prosecutors allege that Mr. Kanemaru kept political donations for personal gain, buying debentures and gold bars and stashing them in his office and home. His lawyers reiterated at Tuesday's second hearing that the money was for political purposes, including the creation of a new political party.

Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa last month offered the most far-reaching apology ever as a Japanese premier for the country's war atrocities when he came to power, speaking a spate of demands for compensation.

\$184b war compensation sought from Japan

TOKYO (Agencies) — Potential demands for compensation Japan faces from victims of World War II in the Asia-Pacific total 19.3 trillion yen (\$184 billion), the McKinsey & Company said Tuesday.

The figure is mainly based on \$180 billion (18.5 trillion yen) that some members of the Chinese parliament have calculated as damages for war massacres and forced labour, the daily said.

Many other victims from South Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines and Australia are considering asking Japan to make up for their suffering.

Some have already launched lawsuits in Tokyo, demanding that the government pay up to 15 billion yen to victims including former sex slaves to Japanese soldiers and South Korean men who were conscripted into the Japanese army.

In recent years, however, witnesses and participants have come forward in growing numbers. Their testimony and documentary evidence are embarrassing Japan into retracting denials about its atrocities during the war.

Like Dr. Ken Yusa, 76, most are goaded by conscience and con-

cern that the true history of

Sports

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1993

1993 Women's Basketball Championship Jazireh humiliate Ahli 76-20

AMMAN (J.T.) — Al Jazireh's women's team Monday scored a surprising 76-20 win over the Kingdom's second-placed Al Ahli on the opening day of the 1993 Women's Basketball Championship. The first half ended 39-13.

In another match, titleholders Al Orthodoxi

easily defeated newcomers Abu Nusair 78-15, the first half ending 40-11.

The teams next play on Sept. 14 with Al Orthodoxi clashing with Al Jazireh and Al Ahli meeting Abu Nusair.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Danes take their own food for Albania tie

COPENHAGEN (R) — Denmark's national team took off Tuesday for a vital World Cup soccer qualifier against Albania with secret weapon stowed away in the cargo compartment — 1,100 kilos of Danish food. "The food packages contain meat, fish and salad among other things. We've brought all the food for all the meals, even the cake for our evening coffee," soccer federation spokesman Lars Berendt said. Danish coach Richard Moeller Nielsen said: "The food of the south holds different bacteria from Danish food ... we're not taking any risks. The situation awaiting us is like night and day compared with what we are used to." Denmark, who need a win against bottom-placed Albania to stay on course for a place in the 1994 finals, fear primitive conditions in the country and coach Moeller Nielsen decided to prepare at home and leave for Tirana as late as possible.

Rainey may be paralysed

CESENA, Italy (R) — World 500cc motorcycle champion Wayne Rainey may be left paralysed following his crash in the Italian Grand Prix, one of his doctors said Tuesday. "The risk exists that he may be paralysed for life, although it is still too early to say," Dr. Sandro Bucci at the Bufalini Hospital in Cesena told Reuters. "The damage he suffered is undoubtedly very severe," Bucci said. He added that the 32-year-old Californian was breathing better, had passed a quiet night and was conscious. Rainey, seeking his fourth straight world title, slid off the Santamonica Circuit after leading for the first third of the race, in dry, sunny conditions. He landed heavily on gravel. His condition was critical, with injuries to the back and chest and suspected fractures of one or more vertebrae. Rainey later underwent a minor operation to drain blood from his lungs. Sunday's accident means the world crown will go to another American; Suzuki rider Kevin Schwantz.

Goalkeeper dies on eve of match

BUDAPEST (R) — Hungary's popular goalkeeper Gabor Zsiborai died in a hospital Tuesday, lending a somber backdrop to his country's World Cup soccer qualifier against Russia Wednesday. Zsiborai, 35, had been in a coma since last Wednesday when he collapsed with a

brain clot before a practice match involving the national team. He never regained consciousness. Zsiborai played 361 league matches in Hungary for Ferencvaros and MTK and was capped four times for his country. Rafa Eto goalkeeper Zoltan Vegh is expected to step in for him in Wednesday's match.

Holland banned for St. Leger

LONDON (AFP) — Promising jockey Darryl Holland was ruled out of Saturday's English St. Leger when he was banned for eight days and fined £200 Monday. The suspension, which begins Thursday, was imposed for whip offences August 27 and 28, while the fine was for leaving the racecourse before the all-clear signal had been given. The former British champion apprentice, who was cleared of a third offence on August 31, has now been banned for misuse of the whip at least seven times. Holland has adopted an American style of riding used by Cash Asmussen, crouching low down in the saddle. But new regulations introduced on July 5 outlawing the use of the whip above shoulder height have resulted in him becoming a more frequent offender and he was the first to be found guilty of breaking the new guidelines.

Quintero out until next year

BRUSSELS (R) — World eight jump champion Iopannet Quintero of Cuba will be sidelined for at least half a year after her Achilles tendon snapped during last Friday's Brussels Grand Prix athletics meeting. "She'll be in plaster for at least two months and won't be able to run properly for six months," Reino Roelandt, chief doctor of the Belgian Athletics Federation, told Reuter's Monday. Quintero, 22, underwent surgery in Brussels' Erasmus Hospital Saturday after the tendon was torn during an attempt to clear 1.95 metres at the meeting Friday evening.

France seek to ensure place in World Cup finals

HELSINKI (R) — France will not underestimate underdogs Finland in Wednesday's European Group Six World Cup qualifier in Tampere where a French victory will virtually ensure a place in the 1994 finals. France and Sweden each have 11 points after seven games, two ahead of third-place Bulgaria. Finland, with only three points after seven games, are pinning their hopes on a lightly reshuffled team after the 3-0 defeat against Austria last month.

Athletes receive death warning over hormone

LONDON (AFP) — Athletes were warned Monday that they are putting their lives at risk by injecting growth hormone.

Vienna University Professor Herwig Freisch told the Today newspaper that some of the hormone, which is extracted in Russia from corpes' pituitary glands, is contaminated with impurities linked with the deadly brain illness, Creutzfeld-Jakob Disease.

Professor Freisch pointed out that CJD, which can lay dormant in the body for up to 20 years, is so powerful that one infected gland among 30,000 will contaminate the whole lot.

"The athletes are running a terrible risk," said the professor, who uncovered the link with CJD during a study of athletes' muscle strength with co-researcher Ro-

man Deysig and has interviewed "dozens" of athletes about it.

"The material they're using is being drawn from corpes in Russia and our tests in the laboratory show it to be extremely impure.

"One injection contaminated with CJD would be enough for the disease to make its appearance in the body of the athlete within the next 15 to 20 years, possibly sooner," he told Today.

"We found it difficult to persuade the athletes to take us seriously, as some we spoke to thought we were just trying to scare them."

"It's something that needs to be investigated by sports authorities without further delay. Athletes must realize what it is they're injecting themselves with."

"Athletes, particularly young athletes, need support from officials, coaches, doctors and even parents to withstand these pressures. I hope this conference can supply that assurance."

China's gold medals at the World Championships in Stuttgart were not fuelled by drugs, professor Weng Qunzhang, a member of their Olympic anti-doping committee, told the conference.

Western coaches at last month's championships were amazed at the improvement in the times of the Chinese women who struck gold in the 1,500, 3,000 and 10,000 metres and hinted that they must have taken illegal substances.

But professor Weng stressed that China adhered to International Olympic Committee and International Amateur Athletic Federation regulations.

The fact that the North-South hands contained all the high trumps, except for the jack, makes a safety play feasible. After ruffing the heart, declarer should lead the ten of spades from dummy at trick two and run it!

West can win and revere in hearts, but declarer is in command. The table ruffs with the king, declarer comes to hand with the ace of diamonds and draws trumps. Now the clubs can be run — making six odd.

Switch the nine and seven of spades and the safety play won't work. When the board ruffs the heart continuation with the king, West's nine of spades is promoted to a trick and the defense prevails.

South did not like the idea of choosing so weak a suit for a refund, but there was no attractive alternative. The spade suit was not good enough to be bid again in this sequence, and the prime values made

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANIAH HANSON
CINERAMA Media Services, Inc.

PREPARE FOR THE WORST

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

♦ K 10 6

♦ Q 9

♦ 8 7 6 5 2

♦ K 7 4 3

♦ J 10 5

♦ A 3 9 8 4

♦ K 10 6

♦ 7 4

♦ 6 5 3

♦ 6 3

♦ A 10

The bidding:

South: West: North: East:

1 ♠ Pass: 2 ♠ Pass:

2 ♠ Pass: 2 ♠ Pass:

4 ♠ Pass: Pass:

Opening lead: King of ♠

There are safety plays that depend only on distribution. Others are determined by a holding in the key suit. This hand illustrates the point.

South did not like the idea of choosing so weak a suit for a refund,

but there was no attractive alternative.

The spade suit was not good

enough to be bid again in this sequence, and the prime values made

the holding unsuited to two no trump. The final contract was three spades.

Declarer ruffed the king of hearts in dummy, cashed the king of spades and continued with the ten. When East showed out on the second spade, the contract was beyond salvation. West ruffed the third round of clubs and declarer had to lose three tricks in the red suits, in addition to the trump trick the defenders had in the bank.

The fact that the North-South hands contained all the high trumps, except for the jack, makes a safety play feasible. After ruffing the heart, declarer should lead the ten of spades from dummy at trick two and run it!

West can win and revere in hearts, but declarer is in command. The table ruffs with the king, declarer comes to hand with the ace of diamonds and draws trumps. Now the clubs can be run — making six odd.

Switch the nine and seven of spades and the safety play won't work. When the board ruffs the heart continuation with the king, West's nine of spades is promoted to a trick and the defense prevails.

South did not like the idea of choosing so weak a suit for a refund,

but there was no attractive alternative.

The spade suit was not good

enough to be bid again in this sequence, and the prime values made

U.S. Open

Sukova ousts Navratilova; Chang advances

NEW YORK (AFP) — Four-time champion Martina Navratilova tumbled out of the fourth round of the U.S. Open tennis championships Monday, while the men's seeds advanced as expected to the quarter-finals.

Czech 12th seed Helena Sukova ousted Navratilova 7-5, 6-4, posing only her fifth win against the Czech-born American in 30 meetings.

Meanwhile the men's quarter-finals fell flat, with second-seeded Pete Sampras and number seven Michael Chang with straight set wins.

Sampras beat unseeded Swede Thomas Enqvist 6-4, 6-4, 7-6 (7/4), while Chang defeated Wayne Ferreira 6-4, 6-3, 6-4.

Russian Alexander Volkov, the 14th seed, moved ahead with a 6-2, 7-6 (7/2), 6-1 win over American Chuck Adams.

While three of the men's singles favourites are American, Sampras, Chang and world number one Jim Courier, Navratilova's exit means there are no women left to carry the U.S. flag.

"There wasn't any luck for me today," Navratilova said. "She made the shots she should have made. I made some of the shots I should make, but not others."

She said Sukova's serve-and-volley style always gave her trouble.

"If you're a little bit off against a baseliner, you can work your way through the point. With her, there are no rallies," Navratilova said.

She also said her own shots were slightly off.

"Balls just weren't falling," she said. "I felt like I was playing golf. They were just not going in by inches."

Navratilova said she knew by 3-3 in the first set that she was in trouble.

"I had break points every game and didn't break once. I should have been up 4-2 at worst, maybe 5-1."

Sukova said consistency gave her the victory.

"She felt a lot of pressure on her serve because I was able to return her first and second serve," she said. "I think that is tough for her to do — deal with that return the whole match."

In the quarters, Sukova will meet unseeded Bulgarian Katerina Maleeva, who beat her 10th-seeded younger sister Magdalena 6-2, 6-2 victory over unseeded American Brad Gilbert 6-2, 6-3.

Second-seeded Spaniard Arantxa Sanchez Vicario and unseeded Natalia Zvereva completed the women's quarter-final roster.

Sanchez Vicario beat 14th-seeded Frenchwoman Nathalie Tauziat 6-4, 6-3, and Zvereva defeated late entry Maria Jose Gaidano of Argentina 6-0, 6-2.

The very first men's quarter-final match-up, Sampras-Chang, is intriguing, since they have been playing each other since they were children.

Change burst onto the international scene first, with a victory in the 1989 French Open when he was 17.

Sampras won the U.S. Open the following year, becoming the youngest to claim the title.

This year Sampras added the Wimbledon title to his cache, and briefly claimed the world number one ranking.

He said he felt a little sluggish against Enqvist, who upset Andre Agassi in the first round, and it showed in the third set.

Western coaches at last month's championships were amazed at the improvement in the times of the Chinese women who struck gold in the 1,500, 3,000 and 10,000 metres and hinted that they must have taken illegal substances.

But professor Weng stressed that China adhered to International Olympic Committee and International Amateur Athletic Federation regulations.

FOR RENT

In the most beautiful areas of western Amman — furnished and unfurnished — flats and villas.

Abu Sharar Centre for International Services.

Tel: 646914

FOR RENT

A furnished apartment with 2 bedrooms, a dining room, a living room, 2 bathrooms, a garden, an independent entrance, a telephone, air condition, and central heating.

For more info. call 674935/770683



Natalia Zvereva

Muster will meet Volkov in the quarter-finals.

U.S. OPEN NOTEBOOK

★ It started with a bang, and ended with a bang. In between, Ferreira saved one match point with a fierce return, but Chang converted the next match point with a volley that Ferreira could barely reach.

Chang said the victory was harder than it looked.

"I was very lucky in the first couple of sets, because Wayne had quite a few break points and didn't convert any of them," he said.

Chang also thought Ferreira was feeling the effects of three five-set matches in the first three rounds.

After that, Chang said, "It's tough to find something to draw your adrenaline from."

Austrian Thomas Muster, the 12th seed, reached the U.S. Open quarter-finals for the first time in five appearances with a 6-2, 7-5, 6-7 (5/7), 6-2 victory over unseeded American Brad Gilbert 6-2, 6-3.

Second-seeded Spaniard Arantxa Sanchez Vicario and unseeded Natalia Zvereva completed the women's quarter-final roster.

Sanchez Vicario beat 14th-seeded Frenchwoman Nathalie Tauziat 6-4, 6-3, and Zvereva defeated late entry Maria Jose Gaidano of Argentina 6-0, 6-2.

The very first men's quarter-final match-up, Sampras-Chang, is intriguing, since they have been playing each other since they were children.

Change burst onto the international scene first, with a victory in the 1989 French Open when he was 17.

Return of exiles starts tomorrow

Combined agency dispatches

TEL AVIV — Almost half the 400 Palestinians expelled to South Lebanon by Israel last year will start to return Thursday, Israeli Health Minister Chaim Ramon said Tuesday.

"The return of the deportees will begin at the end of the week, or to be precise, on Thursday," Mr. Ramon said in a press conference in Occupied Jerusalem.

Israel will bring back 189 of the men this week and the remainder of the 396 by the end of the year.

Earlier, the exiles' spokesman, Abdul Aziz Rantisi of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), said he had been informed by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Israel that he would receive a list of the 189 names Wednesday.

They would be repatriated starting the next day, after nine months at their Mar Al Zohour camp in South Lebanon, he said.

Mr. Ramon said the return "will have no effect on the peace process."

"Most of them already had permission to return in February but refused to do so," he said, referring to an initial vow by the exiles that they would return together or not at all.

A large proportion (of the returnees) will go to prison because they are strongly suspected of taking part in terrorist activities," he said.

The remaining exiles will be allowed back in December.

Security sources said Israeli soldiers set up four large tents to receive the returnees at the Zemraa checkpoint three kilometres south of the exiles' camp.

The troops cleaned up rooms in



Israeli Police Minister Moshe Shahal (second right) stands on the King Hussein bridge over the Jordan river. Mr. Shahal also visited Israeli police and settlers in Jericho and he was the first Israeli minister to visit Jericho since the autonomy plan for Palestinians were published. (AFP photo)

PLO official rejects Israeli claim it would retain control of bridges

Accord stipulates joint checkpoints under the supervision of an international force

By P. V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official Tuesday rejected Israeli assertions that the Jewish state would continue to exercise sole control over the bridges across the River Jordan under the Israeli-Palestinian autonomy accord.

"Under the autonomy deal, an international force would be deployed to supervise joint Palestinian-Israeli-Jordanian control of the King Hussein and Prince Mohammad bridges," said the official.

According to the official, it is envisaged that "joint control checkpoints" will be set up at the crossing points and "Israel will not have a veto over who could come and who could go out."

The "joint control checkpoints" will involve Egypt, Israel and the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and Jordan, Israel and the Palestinians in Jericho, the official said.

The official was commenting on a statement by Israeli Police Minister Moshe Shahal that the Israeli occupation authorities would not relinquish control of the bridges during the five-year Palestinian autonomy period.

"The bridges will be under the control of the Israeli defence forces," Mr. Shahal was quoted as saying. "There is no doubt about it."

Jordanian officials declined comment on the issue, with some of them saying they were not aware of the fine points of the agreement.

The PLO official said a "token" U.N. force would be deployed in the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho to link Gaza with Jericho.

The Israeli officials were talking about getting rid of Gaza," Mr. Arafat said. "I asked President Mubarak to intervene and have them withdraw from Gaza and Jericho together, so that the Palestinian lands are not divided."

Mr. Arafat flew in Monday from Damascus, where he received no better than a lukewarm welcome to the peace agreement from President Hafez Al Assad.

Government sources in Cairo said Mr. Mubarak is expecting a visit from Mr. Assad soon to discuss the proposal.

Jericho immediately after the expected Israeli withdrawal (or redeployment) of the Israeli army from the two areas.

"This force will be responsible for matters related to joint Israeli-Arab control wherever applicable in the autonomous area," said the official. "These include the entry and exit points, where the force would supervise joint control of security inspections."

According to the official, it is envisaged that "joint control checkpoints" will be set up at the crossing points and "Israel will not have a veto over who could come and who could go out."

The "joint control checkpoints" will involve Egypt, Israel and the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and Jordan, Israel and the Palestinians in Jericho to link Gaza with Jericho.

The official also said a corridor would be set up between Jericho and the Gaza Strip. In addition, the Palestinian self-rule authority will also upgrade a military air-strip in Jericho to an airport.

Control of the bridges is a key issue in what Jordanian officials have described as the kingdom's security concerns that the so-called Gaza-Jericho first plan could lead to an Israeli-engineered Palestinian influx to the East Bank.

The scenario, according to this line of thinking, involves the possibility of Israel expelling whoever it sees as "undesirable" to Jericho from other parts of the occupied West Bank. These people would be compelled to cross to the East Bank because of limited living conditions in Jericho.

There is "no plan to close the bridges and I hope there will be no reason in the future to do so," the King said.

tions in Jericho.

"Once they cross to the East Bank, it is easy for Israel to deny them reentry to the West Bank if it (the Jewish state) is in sole control of the bridges," a senior official noted last week.

What does that mean except a de facto expulsion of Palestinians to the East Bank?"

But Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali said last week that the Israel-PLO accord "would not hurt Jordan."

"On the contrary, it will provide an opportunity for Palestinian refugees since 1967" to return to their homeland, he said in an interview.

"We will not hesitate to close the bridges (across the River Jordan) to prevent a Palestinian exodus into Jordan (should that ever happen)," he said.

These opinions and views were expressed before His Majesty King Hussein extended unequivocal endorsement for the Israel-PLO agreement, which he said went beyond all published accounts.

The King, in a press conference where he welcomed the plan as the beginning of a process which would hopefully lead to a comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict, said Jordan did not have any plan to close the bridges.

Comments in the local press, based on the "security fears" of a Palestinian influx, the King said, were the reflection of a free press in democratic Jordan and do not reflect government thinking.

There is "no plan to close the bridges and I hope there will be no reason in the future to do so," the King said.

It's not in my capacity. It's in the capacity of the PNC (Palestine National Council)," he answered.

Foreign ministers of the GCC on Monday at a meeting in Riyadh backed the autonomy

accord, paving the way for crucial financial backing.

The United States has proposed a \$590-million fund for the Israeli-occupied territories, a marshalling plan, in which the GCC would pay \$100 million.

Muscat has always tried to play a neutral role in Arab disputes, notably when it maintained diplomatic ties with Cairo after the 1979 Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty, when other Arab states severed relations.

A Gulf-based PLO envoy said

Mr. Arafat was not expected to visit other GCC members after Oman but would brief Sultan Qaboos on the "Gaza-Jericho first" deal and ask him to mediate an end to the current rift.

Mr. Arafat was not expected to visit other GCC members after Oman but would brief Sultan Qaboos on the "Gaza-Jericho first" deal and ask him to mediate an end to the current rift.

Comments in the local press, based on the "security fears" of a Palestinian influx, the King said, were the reflection of a free press in democratic Jordan and do not reflect government thinking.

There is "no plan to close the bridges and I hope there will be no reason in the future to do so," the King said.

It's not in my capacity. It's in the capacity of the PNC (Palestine National Council)," he answered.

Foreign ministers of the GCC on Monday at a meeting in Riyadh backed the autonomy

accord, paving the way for crucial financial backing.

The United States has proposed a \$590-million fund for the Israeli-occupied territories, a marshalling plan, in which the GCC would pay \$100 million.

Muscat has always tried to play a neutral role in Arab disputes, notably when it maintained diplomatic ties with Cairo after the 1979 Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty, when other Arab states severed relations.

A Gulf-based PLO envoy said

Mr. Arafat was not expected to visit other GCC members after Oman but would brief Sultan Qaboos on the "Gaza-Jericho first" deal and ask him to mediate an end to the current rift.

Comments in the local press, based on the "security fears" of a Palestinian influx, the King said, were the reflection of a free press in democratic Jordan and do not reflect government thinking.

There is "no plan to close the bridges and I hope there will be no reason in the future to do so," the King said.

It's not in my capacity. It's in the capacity of the PNC (Palestine National Council)," he answered.

Foreign ministers of the GCC on Monday at a meeting in Riyadh backed the autonomy

accord, paving the way for crucial financial backing.

The United States has proposed a \$590-million fund for the Israeli-occupied territories, a marshalling plan, in which the GCC would pay \$100 million.

Muscat has always tried to play a neutral role in Arab disputes, notably when it maintained diplomatic ties with Cairo after the 1979 Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty, when other Arab states severed relations.

A Gulf-based PLO envoy said

Mr. Arafat was not expected to visit other GCC members after Oman but would brief Sultan Qaboos on the "Gaza-Jericho first" deal and ask him to mediate an end to the current rift.

Comments in the local press, based on the "security fears" of a Palestinian influx, the King said, were the reflection of a free press in democratic Jordan and do not reflect government thinking.

There is "no plan to close the bridges and I hope there will be no reason in the future to do so," the King said.

It's not in my capacity. It's in the capacity of the PNC (Palestine National Council)," he answered.

Foreign ministers of the GCC on Monday at a meeting in Riyadh backed the autonomy

accord, paving the way for crucial financial backing.

The United States has proposed a \$590-million fund for the Israeli-occupied territories, a marshalling plan, in which the GCC would pay \$100 million.

Muscat has always tried to play a neutral role in Arab disputes, notably when it maintained diplomatic ties with Cairo after the 1979 Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty, when other Arab states severed relations.

A Gulf-based PLO envoy said

Mr. Arafat was not expected to visit other GCC members after Oman but would brief Sultan Qaboos on the "Gaza-Jericho first" deal and ask him to mediate an end to the current rift.

Comments in the local press, based on the "security fears" of a Palestinian influx, the King said, were the reflection of a free press in democratic Jordan and do not reflect government thinking.

There is "no plan to close the bridges and I hope there will be no reason in the future to do so," the King said.

It's not in my capacity. It's in the capacity of the PNC (Palestine National Council)," he answered.

Foreign ministers of the GCC on Monday at a meeting in Riyadh backed the autonomy

accord, paving the way for crucial financial backing.

The United States has proposed a \$590-million fund for the Israeli-occupied territories, a marshalling plan, in which the GCC would pay \$100 million.

Muscat has always tried to play a neutral role in Arab disputes, notably when it maintained diplomatic ties with Cairo after the 1979 Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty, when other Arab states severed relations.

A Gulf-based PLO envoy said

Mr. Arafat was not expected to visit other GCC members after Oman but would brief Sultan Qaboos on the "Gaza-Jericho first" deal and ask him to mediate an end to the current rift.

Comments in the local press, based on the "security fears" of a Palestinian influx, the King said, were the reflection of a free press in democratic Jordan and do not reflect government thinking.

There is "no plan to close the bridges and I hope there will be no reason in the future to do so," the King said.

It's not in my capacity. It's in the capacity of the PNC (Palestine National Council)," he answered.

Foreign ministers of the GCC on Monday at a meeting in Riyadh backed the autonomy

accord, paving the way for crucial financial backing.

The United States has proposed a \$590-million fund for the Israeli-occupied territories, a marshalling plan, in which the GCC would pay \$100 million.

Muscat has always tried to play a neutral role in Arab disputes, notably when it maintained diplomatic ties with Cairo after the 1979 Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty, when other Arab states severed relations.

A Gulf-based PLO envoy said

Mr. Arafat was not expected to visit other GCC members after Oman but would brief Sultan Qaboos on the "Gaza-Jericho first" deal and ask him to mediate an end to the current rift.

Comments in the local press, based on the "security fears" of a Palestinian influx, the King said, were the reflection of a free press in democratic Jordan and do not reflect government thinking.

There is "no plan to close the bridges and I hope there will be no reason in the future to do so," the King said.

It's not in my capacity. It's in the capacity of the PNC (Palestine National Council)," he answered.

Foreign ministers of the GCC on Monday at a meeting in Riyadh backed the autonomy

accord, paving the way for crucial financial backing.

The United States has proposed a \$590-million fund for the Israeli-occupied territories, a marshalling plan, in which the GCC would pay \$100 million.

Muscat has always tried to play a neutral role in Arab disputes, notably when it maintained diplomatic ties with Cairo after the 1979 Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty, when other Arab states severed relations.

A Gulf-based PLO envoy said

Mr. Arafat was not expected to visit other GCC members after Oman but would brief Sultan Qaboos on the "Gaza-Jericho first" deal and ask him to mediate an end to the current rift.

Comments in the local press, based on the "security fears" of a Palestinian influx, the King said, were the reflection of a free press in democratic Jordan and do not reflect government thinking.

There is "no plan to close the bridges and I hope there will be no reason in the future to do so," the King said.

It's not in my capacity. It's in the capacity of the PNC (Palestine National Council)," he answered.

Foreign ministers of the GCC on Monday at a meeting in Riyadh backed the autonomy

accord, paving the way for crucial financial backing.

The United States has proposed a \$590-million fund for the Israeli-occupied territories, a marshalling plan, in which the GCC would pay \$100 million.

Muscat has always tried to play a neutral role in Arab disputes, notably when it maintained diplomatic ties with Cairo after the 1979 Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty, when other Arab states severed relations.

A Gulf-based PLO envoy said

Mr. Arafat was not expected to visit other GCC members after Oman but would brief Sultan Qaboos on the "Gaza-Jericho first" deal and ask him to mediate an end to the current rift.

Comments in the local press, based on the "security fears" of a Palestinian influx, the King said, were the reflection of a free press in democratic Jordan and do not reflect government thinking.

There is "no plan to close the bridges and I hope there will be no reason in the future to do so," the King said.

It's not in my capacity. It's in the capacity of the PNC (Palestine National Council)," he answered.

Foreign ministers of the GCC on Monday at a meeting in Riyadh backed the autonomy

accord, paving the way for crucial financial backing.

The United States has proposed a \$590-million fund for the Israeli-occupied territories, a marshalling plan, in which the GCC would pay \$100 million.

Muscat has always tried to play a neutral role in Arab disputes, notably when